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1873.

The Pittsburgh COMMERCIAL.

Daily and Weekly.

LEADING

PENNSYLVANIA PAPER.

A paper so widely known as the COMMERCIAL can safely refer to its course in the past as a guaranty for the future. But it will not be content to pursue the beaten path. The re-election of General Grant insures for the country a lengthened period of prosperity and progress. The press is destined to play a still more important part as the educator of the people and leader of public opinion. In the future, as in the past, the COMMERCIAL will not be content to lag in the rear, but will be fully up to the times in whatever relates to the general welfare.

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PITTSBURGH, PA.

FROM BEAVER, PA.

Benefit Concert—Prof. Beuter—Beaver College—New Building—Lectures, &c., &c.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

BEAVER, PA., December, 16, 1872.

Our quiet town has been all agog for the last few days with the concert to be given at the close of the session of our College and Musical Institute, Dr. Taylor President. It had been arranged that this concert should be a "benefit" to Prof. A. Beuter, the popular Professor of Music in this institution for a number of years. The beautiful auditorium room of the new Methodist Episcopal Church was secured for the occasion, and several singers from other points were invited to participate. The attendance was large, nearly filling the capacious room, and showing the determination of the community to convince the distinguished gent eman in an unmistakeable manner of their high appreciation of his talents. The whole programme, which was of a high order, though selected with reference to the popular taste to some extent, was passed through in a satisfactory manner eliciting much applause and many *encores*. The performers on the piano and organ were Misses Carver, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio; Loomis, of Meadville; Mary French, of Beaver; Holmes, of Allegheny; and Morton, of Beaver, Ohio, and the professor himself, who was recalled a second time by the enthusiastic audience. Miss Winnie of New Brighton, sang with pleasing effect "Willies Ship," and Miss Lida Hurlburt, of Beaver, "Love's Request," and as an encore "Where is mine Fatherboro Town," both of which were well rendered. Miss Lida French, the assistant vocal teacher of the college, sang with much purity of tone "The Wanderer," by Schubert, and as an encore "One Year ago" which called forth expression and power. Miss F. has a voice very rich in the lower tones, and her singing showed great improvement over her efforts Commencement. Miss Ida Ireland, of Massilon, Ohio, sang "My Queen and First Violet," together with numerous others, in a manner that was completely captivating the audience. Her voice is well cultivated and she sings with great confidence and taste. She will ever receive a hearty welcome at the hands of her numerous friends in Beaver. Messrs. Critchlow and Counts, of the new Brighton, assisted in the quartettes, and sustained their parts admirably. The new building is now nearly ready for occupation with the former building, which seems smaller by the larger addition, presents a truly imposing appearance. Your readers are, few of them, aware that our respondent is satisfied, aware of the magnitude of the work which is being accomplished here in this town, reuren, yet of such easy access. The accommodations, which have long been quite too limited, will soon be greatly enlarged. The building with finished basement and attics, supplied with dormer windows, is three stories in height, one hundred and seventy-five feet in length on the main, and seventy-five on the Fifth street. In it, besides many additional dormitories, there will be a hall for public exercises, two very large school rooms, several recitation rooms, library and reading room, painting department, society and scientific rooms, office, &c. It will be supplied with bath rooms, and arrangements are being made to light it with gas. Too much credit cannot be given to John F. Drake, Esq., and Capt. J. V. McDonald, without whose liberal subscriptions the enterprise could not possibly have been undertaken.

The Independent Lecture Committee have arranged for a course of lectures to commence, we understand, soon after the holidays, to be given by distinguished gentlemen from New England. Anna E. Dickinson is said in favor as with her presence this winter. You will see, therefore, that we do not mean to be distinguished, though we are removed from the great city and entirely aside from the great thoroughfares. B.

Released from Prison to Die of Smallpox.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CENTERVILLE, OHIO, December 16, 1872.

AARON BENJAMIN, sixty years of age, who was arrested and confined in the county jail some few weeks ago on a charge of bastardy, by two sisters not out of their teens, was released from custody on Friday, reaching home that evening, and was found dead in his bed early on Saturday morning. A Coroner's inquest was held over the body, and a verdict rendered that he died of small pox. Symptoms of the disease were not developed until Friday last.

FIRST EDITION.

THE OIL REGIONS.

Reported Failure of the Proposed Combination of Producers and Refiners.

Suspension of Production Demanded.

Excitement in the Market and Fall in Prices.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

TITUSVILLE, PA., December 16, 1872.

Private dispatches received from New York to-night indicate that the attempted coalition between the refiners and producers has failed. The reason assigned, viz: that the refiners object to allowing the producers to terminate the agreement on ten days' notice, raises a doubt as to the genuiness of the report, for the producers can only give their notice after the first sixty days, while the refiners are allowed the privilege of giving notice at any time. The report is generally discredited, for in this respect the refiners have the producers entirely in their power, and would not be likely to raise such a captious objection. It is believed that the conference will fail to effect a combination, but for more substantial reasons.

A special to the *Courier* states that the committees are endeavoring to adhere as closely as possible to the Titusville agreement as the basis, and that to accomplish this several minor concessions have been made.

A private dispatch says that the refiners demand a total suspension of further production, and will not consent to co-operation unless this is promised.

The oil market is dull and prices have declined about fifteen cents to-day. Spot oil is selling at $3 35. Producers who have been holding out of the market for better prices are now forced to sell and meet obligations maturing at the end of the year, and the consequent heavy offerings, with the expected failure of the coalition, tend to lower the price.

Review of Operations in Clarion County.

The Clarion *Democrat* furnishes the following interesting news as to recent operations in that county:

They are still drilling at the James well, in Millcreek township, and are making arrangements to clean out the Trout Run well at Marion.

On the Eisiager farm, in Ashland township, drilling was commenced at the Brundred well, last week.

On the P. F. Kribbs farm, in Elk township, the timber is on the ground but operations have not yet commenced.

On Gates farm, owned by Mr. Hullings, in Beaver, a rig is going up and drilling will commence soon.

Timber is being taken out for rigs to go up on the farms of Jacob Sweitzer, John Sweitzer, Oliver Kirman and J. I. Best, all in the neighborhood of Edenburg.

Capt. George Kribbs and Jacob Hahn expect their machinery for drilling on the Kissel farm in a week.

The Hamar well on the Exley farm, in Beaver, is still holding its 800 barrels of oil per day. The Delo well is doing about 15 barrels. The Delo well, in Salem township, is doing about 30 barrels. The Palmer well, in Ashland township, is flowing 10 or 15 barrels, and the Wm. P. Finley well, on the Moses farm, is doing two or three barrels. Work is commencing in earnest in this section, and before spring the developments will be extensive.

The well of Capt. Kribbs, on the Wm. Neeley farm, in Licking township, is now being tested, with prospects for a good well.

The well of Haymaker & Co., on the Young farm in Beaver, is down about 1,050 feet, at which depth the drill is fast. The Fry well, in Big Beaver, is down over 900 feet, and still drilling. A rig is up, and machinery for drilling down for forty-five days on a well on the M. Tarney farm, near Still & Hostetman's mill, in Beaver township, about half a mile from Baker's Hotel.

Oil operators are numerous in this vicinity, and boring and rigging is brisk.

The wi l tested last week on the Eli Ritts farm, is doing 25 barrels and increasing. Mr. George A. Berlin, on the farm adjoining, has had lots surveyed on his farm, which he is leasing. Several rigs are to go up soon.

In Richland township, two new wells were struck on Saturday on the Wm. Shoup farm, in one of which Mr. Wm. Hecter is part owner. They are both now being tubed, and give promise of large wells.

Nathaniel Smith, on the south side of the David Shoup farm, was struck on Saturday week, was tubed, and is now doing forty-five barrels. The owners are Graham & Shoup, Hecter, Klinger, Saml. Bostaph, Adam Deardoph and D. Bostaph, Esq.

A well was struck on the Bowser farm, eight farm on Friday. When the sand was struck, the oil spouted out in a strong volume. Tubing is now in process. About a dozen other wells are going down on this farm, but this was the first struck.

Thomas Vaughn drilled a well on the Fillman farm on Turkey Run, adjoining the Dan'l Heeter farm, containing 12 acres, for $21,850 00.—Barney Vessel was the purchaser. He has since sold part of the land at an advanced price.

The Jackson well, on the Fillman farm, on Turkey Run—the place where Nelson Vensel and others were tunneling to death last summer, is now yielding 60 barrels of oil a day.

The developments on Turkey Run are becoming very extensive. There are a number of good wells on the Keating, Neely, Shoup, Heeter, and other farms, and further up Turkey Run, Ashland and B-aver townships, the Delo wells, and those on Switzer Run have opened up a large field. East of Turkey Run, and Still & Hostetman's mill on that stream, the Neely farms are becoming valuable. A well was struck on June last, on the Isaac Neely farm, which has been producing about 25 barrels a day ever since. This well is owned by Paul Neely and E. Boland. A second well has just been completed on the same farm, owned by Speer, Gider & Co., which is the same depth as the first, and will undoubtedly be a large well. Another well, on the same farm, owned by Captain Croel and others, is drilling in the boulder, and still another, owned by Sheriff Neely, Richard Neely and other Neelys, drilling in the sand. Two other wells are being drilled by other parties. On the Fry farm, adjoining on the north, there is one well pumping 10 barrels, and two drilling wells. Further north, on the Davis tid, there are two pumping wells, producing 25 and 48 barrels each. The 25 barrel well is owned by Sheriff Neely, Richard Neely and Ebenezer Davis.

CRIMES.

Attempt to Murder a Family in Memphis.

MEMPHIS, December 16.—A horrible crime was perpetrated on Saturday night on Poplar street boulevard, just outside the city limits. About nine o'clock two negroes entered the grocery store of J. B. Ginnichol, an Italian, and asked for some cheese. While he was serving them one of the negroes struck him with a wagon standard, breaking his jaw and felling him to the floor. The negroes then entered the adjoining room, where his wife was, and beat her almost insensible. Then going to the bed where she was asleep on the bed, they threw a heavy trunk upon her, and, thinking they had killed them all, they proceeded to rifle the store. In the meantime the little girl, who was only slightly hurt, escaped. She alarmed the neighbors, and returning to the house, to find the aged couple weltering in their blood and the assassins gone. The police are in search of them to-day. There are no hopes of the recovery of Ginnichol or wife, owing to the severity of their wounds and their advanced age.

Postmasters Charged With Robbing the Mail.

NEW ORLEANS, December 16.—Postmaster Barnes and Deputy Postmaster Bracy, of Bolton, Miss., have been arrested for robbing the mail. Bail in $5,000 was required, but they could not give it and were sent to prison.

Homicide Case—Jury Fail to Agree.

BALTIMORE, December 16.—The jury in the case of Jesse Uppercue, on trial in the Criminal Court here, for the murder of his aunt, Mrs. Wheat, after being out since Saturday afternoon, were unable to agree, and were discharged.

A Young Man Fatally Shot by Burglars.

CHICAGO, December 16.—Nicholas Eischen was fatally shot about two o'clock this morning by one of two burglars, who had entered his boarding house, and whom he was trying to capture. A young rough named Burge has been arrested on suspicion of being one of the robbers.

CASUALTIES.

Another Death from the Lamp.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

COLUMBUS, OHIO, December 16, 1872.

F. B. MACHOLZ, living in the eastern part of the city, met with a sorrowful accident in his family on Saturday evening his little boy, aged four years, pulled the cover from the sewing machine upon which a lamp was burning, broke the lamp and the contents were thrown upon the child, burning it so badly as to cause death in a few hours.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The steamer Deutschland, from Bremen, arrived at New York yesterday. The steamships Wyoming, Silesian and Nebraska sailed.

The tannery of Beardman & Son, at Dayton, Ohio, was burned sunday night. Loss $50,000.

Maxwell's malt house, at Batavia, N. Y., was burned on Sunday. Loss $40,000.

John W. Bulon, aged seventy-five years, and employed for nearly half a century in the West India trade, died at Philadelphia yesterday.

The story of the loss of life at Anticosti, near Quebec, by the destruction of a light house, is regarded as an invention.

A block of ten ice houses in Woburn, Mass., containing 25,000 tons of ice belonging to the Boston Ice Company, was burned sunday night. Loss $7,000.

A committee of the Italian Republican Association, of New York, have arranged to solicit contributions for the relief of their countrymen arrived in this city recently, also, to ask Congress to prevent such immigration.

Commodore Vanderbilt denies that he has abandoned the New York underground railroad proposition. The London *Post* denies that Eliza Cook, the well known writer, is dead, although a person bearing the same name, and popularly supposed to be the authoress, died in Stafford, recently.

William Henry Russel, for a long time a merchant of New York city, died in the cars on Saturday, aged seventy-three.

General Dix declines the escort of Battery B, of New York, on the occasion of his inauguration, preferring that the ceremony be as simple as possible.

At a meeting of the New York Methodist Preacher's Association yesterday, a paper was read taking the ground that scientists, in turning their attention to spiritual affairs, were invading a province with which they had nothing to do.

The commercial travelers of Cincinnati held a meeting last night and indorsed a call made at Quincy for a National Convention of Commercial Travelers, to be in Cincinnati on the second Wednesday of next July.

The house disease is abating in St. Louis.

The case of Foster, the car-hook murderer, was before the Court of Appeals, at Albany, New York, yesterday.

The anticipated strike of the gas works employees in Chicago did not come off yesterday, the matter having been at last temporarily arranged between them and the company.

Rev. Hubbell Loomis, one of the pioneers of Illinois, died at his home in Alton Sunday night, aged ninety-seven years and six months.

Jesse D. Reed, who was for many years connected with the Baltimore *Sun*, died yesterday, aged sixty-one.

THE STORM KING.

The Recent Hurricane in Northern Europe.

The People Reduced to Poverty—Harrowing Scenes—The Waves Roll Over a Village—Charity.

(Copenhagen (Nov. 23) correspondence N. Y. Herald.)

The recent gale has caused such immense suffering and calamities that even the oldest among us don't remember anything similar.

SCENE OF DESOLATION ON SHORE.

It is known that some two hundred vessels of all sizes have run on shore; but in the bay of Kjoge, on the east side of Seeland, we see some fifty crushed ships, deserted by their crews; some of the vessels have been thrown more than one thousand feet up in the land by the champion waves, which put several square miles of that unhappy town and country under water. All the coasts turned towards the southeast have been horribly damaged. Many lives have been lost, the cattle killed, the crops spoiled, the houses ruined, the wealthy people turned poor, the poor people envying the happier dead. Such is the result of that terrible night of the 13th of November.

SAD PICTURE OF THE SUPPLICANTS FOR RELIEF.

It would be rather difficult to state which is the worse—the calamity itself or the consequences of it —for many thousand families who but a few days ago enjoyed gratefully the humble fruits of their manful work by day and night, stand now helpless—almost naked—in the unmerciful cold winter, looking out for assistance from their fellow-citizens, who, even doing their best, can only partly succor the sufferers.

BRAVE FISHERMEN IN INEFFECTUAL BATTLE FOR LIFE.

Should I appoint any class for whom the inundation has been an overwhelming calamity I think it is the numerous population of fishers. The storm deprived them of their tools, the waves crushed their boats and burned their houses, and many of those brave men, supporters of families, found a sudden death in the furious element.

UPHEAVING OF THE SEA TO THE FIRESIDE.

Still more than the coast has been damaged. At different points the waves were thrown several miles up into the lowlands, and the unhappy inhabitants of the farms and villages started up in the dark night, seeing the wild sea, whose far noise seldom more than called them to pray for the distressed sailors, carrying away all what was dear and necessary for them.

THE VILLAGE OF BOTOE UNDER WATER.

The southern part of the island, Falsten, has doubtless suffered most. The village of Botoe and the surrounding country are still under water, and are supposed to have disappeared forever. The population here was drowned with all their property, very few escaping, and that in a wonderful manner. The town of New-Koping has lost some fifty lives, being about two and a half per cent. of the inhabitants (corresponding to a loss of 50,000 souls at New York).

The town of Marshalhad had ten houses carried away and many others left standing in *augeurs*, being undermined by the waves, and are now deserted. Several large vessels are stranded here, one sunk six large vessels and some twenty ran on shore.

At Rodtoye, on the island Lolland, was a small island carried over the water of the Fifty-feet zone, now one English mile up in the land, near the churchyard consecrated for the town.

THE CHARITY WHICH CONSOLES AND COMFORTS.

Although the whole country may be said to have been struck hard by the calamity, all who have the interest in the welfare of mankind at heart, will forgive this bitter complaint. Especially the Danes feel that help must be rendered immediately; then the extension of the calamity cannot even now be seen. And truthfully in such a time of distress, help is come.

His Majesty King Christian heads the committee appointed for collecting money for the relief of the sufferers, and the most eminent citizens of the Danish kingdom stand at his side for this purpose.

Her Majesty Queen Louise presides over a large ministering committee, the income whereof will be handed the above committees.

Their Royal Highnesses the hereditary Prince Frederick and Princess Louise, the parents-in-law of Sweden-Norway, have given their palace to the disposal for a "bazzar, in order to relieve the sufferers."

The whole Danish people attend to the Christian and noble work, and their hearts reproof of the sad feelings with which all the people of the world have united in a noble, general service of charity towards our poor little and much-stricken land.

THE DOVER HORROR.

Still Further Particulars—How West Selected His Victim—Why He Returned to Dover.

The Dover, Del., correspondent of the Smyrna *Times* furnishes still further particulars concerning West and the revolting horror which he perpetrated. He says: Another burial in the cemetery to-day is spinning is that West, though not a drinking man, has for some time past been in the habit of visiting a beer saloon on Lockerman street, and in a jocular way would converse with those present. A stranger was interested in the saloon keeper's weight, which he said was about his own; would make measurement of the man's chest, etc., and used to invite the man to his office. West acted in this way with the same man four different times.

He also extended frequent invitations to a mulatto barber, whose shop is near his office, to call on him. The barber, however, never visited West in his office; of course some suspicion of anything wrong, but from not having the inducement.

He also desired one to to visit him, only a day or so before the murder, and urged him to call for one of them, from one circumstance or another, entered his mind. Some false, as to the impression he believed would have been the case had any one of the persons he invited fallen into his clutches.

From all that can be learned, it appears that West had been planning for some time how to get hold of a marketable subject, and after trying on a plan, the next thing was how to get his victim, and having failed to get one to suit his dimension, as in last resort he selected Hazlett.

Turner was slain on Monday evening, it will be remembered, and on Tuesday West made overtures to induce his father-in-law to endorse for him on one of the Dover banks for $200, but he was refused. It has since been ascertained that a thousand dollars was due to him in Washington from some pension claims, hence the two hundred dollars. If West had secured this money it is not likely he would have returned to Dover so soon; in fact it is reported that he left for Washington on Friday, that it was the lack of money that urged him back.

Professor West has suddenly regained his right mind. Yesterday, in consultation with Messrs. Smithers and Ridgely of the Dover bar, and the presumption is that he has employed them as counsel to defend him. What their defence will be is not up cannot, of course, now be foreshadowed, but it is believed that the plea of insanity will be abandoned.

West himself remarked to a friend when speaking on the subject, that his certainty should not seek acquittal on any such plea, and that only that of self-defence should be his defence.

We may add that his subsequent statements are no more to be believed than his confession, but the sentiment is constantly adjudged him guilty of a foul murder. This opinion is based upon facts antecedent to the commission of the crime.

A REMARKABLE THEFT.

Two Men Steal a Large Quantity of Nitro-Glycerine and Store it in the House of One of Them, With His Wife and Family.

A remarkable case of theft has just been unearthed in Oil City, South Side, which has caused the most intense excitement among the people of the place. The *Derrick* states that the stolen property, which consisted of about one hundred and forty pounds of nitro-glycerine, was taken from the McGrew farm, where it had been placed by the Robena Torpedo Company, and thence into the house of one named Jacob Crisman and Thomas Griffin, and hid in the dwelling house of the latter, to the imminent danger, not only of his own wife and six children, but the entire block of and all the inmates. Detective and officer Fulton searched the premises, and with success. The dangerous compound was found and removed to a place of safety. Crisman and Griffith were arrested, and the latter, $2,500 bail being, was committed to jail for trial. The *Derrick* says:

Griffith's family consists of a wife and six children, the oldest of them a girl twelve years of age. For a long time he has concealed large quantities of the article in the house, thus subjecting his family to the danger of instant death at the least slight accident in moving the stuff, any little motion of which would have blown them from the face of the earth. But with a good family remarkable in its rarity, the wife and family have lived with this danger and escaped injury. It seems impossible that any human being could have lived so long.

The house is situated on Fourth street, a very short distance from Shaffer's residence, and the residences of J. K. Lowrey, Colonel W. F. Fox and others. If the nitro-glycerine taken away from them on Saturday had been exploded in the house it would have shattered all that portion of the city. The bill back of it would have thrown the entire section eastward, which would have thrown the river bridge down its piers, and struck Cottage Hill with terrific force. It would have been a volcano in its destructive power.

Legality of Charges for Marriage Brokerage.

A curious case involving the legality of charges for matrimonial brokerage has lately been decided in the Common Pleas Court in Dublin. One William Ireland of Tuam, in Connaught, was sued by his brother-in-law, named Cruice, to a Mrs. O'Brien, a blooming widow of twenty, who possessed a considerable fortune. Subsequently Mrs. Cruice, Ireland's sister, married the widow, and Ireland and the wealthy widow for a consideration, and this proposition was eagerly accepted. In the end Mr. Cruice sued Ireland for £150, the amount of bill in favor of Mrs. Cruice for £150 and interest thereon, the principal to be payable in six months after the marriage of Mrs. O'Brien, or in case of her decease she would become entitled to some property. In January, 1869, Ireland was married on this bond, and a demand made for two-and-half years interest; when Ireland, after some preliminary proceedings, refused to recognize the validity of the bond, declaring it fraudulent, inasmuch as Mr. and Mrs. Cruice had taken advantage of his ignorance and inexperience in order to induce him to sign it. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor was that the bond was fraudulent and void as being against public policy, and that Ireland was not liable in respect of it. After this decision Irish match-makers need not expect any further reward for their services than the approval of their own consciences.

THE American Newspaper Directory Company yesterday forwarded blanks to the newspaper publishers of the United States and Canada, to be filled out for the next issue of their papers, in order to secure a correct record of their newspaper in the only work of the kind in America, publishers should fill out and return the blanks in the earliest date possible. By advertisers and others, the Directory is recognized as a standard authority in the trade. The importance, therefore, to publishers of having their journals correctly recorded, can hardly be over-estimated. Perfect accuracy cannot be secured unless the co-operation of those to whom the blanks are sent, and it is hoped that all will favor the publishers of the Directory with a full and immediate response. George P. Rowell and Company, New York, are the publishers.

A CURIOUS will, that of Ann Josepnine Worcester, was filed in the District of Columbia Probate Court a few days ago. The first bequest is one of $12,000, which she claims to be due her from her late husband's heirs and assigns, for her influence and aid in effecting the sale of the captured rebel ram to the Haytian Government in 1870. The Atlanta started from Philadelphia for delivery to the Haytian authorities, and since her passage between Capes Charles and Henry has never been heard from, and is supposed to have sunk with all on board. In the will she sets forth that she was jointly interested with Cockaniln in the purchase, and was to receive $12,000 of the proceeds, and that the debt has been acknowledged by his heirs, though the payment of the money by the Haytian government is still in abeyance.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

Policy in Appointing Postmasters.

Registered and Coupon Bonds.

NIAGARA SHIP CANAL PROJECT.

War Damage Claims Revived.

Decision in the Louisiana Case.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1872.

The Policy in Appointing Postmasters.

The Postmaster General to-day made known to Representative Hoar the policy the administration had concluded to adopt in regard to those postmasters who are not appointed by the President. Rules, framed under the Civil Service, are in course of preparation to cover this class of officers, but as yet are not complete as regards detail. Meanwhile their general spirit will be observed as far as possible, and appointments and removals will not hereafter be made in these cases merely upon recommendations of members of Congress. There will be no removals solely for opposition to General Grant during the last campaign, unless accompanied with special bitterness. Where charges are demanded on account of local reasons or apparent incapacity of occupants, the facts in each case will be investigated by an officer of the Department before any action is taken.

Registered and Coupon Bonds.

The Senate Finance Committee this morning decided to report the bill which passed the House on Friday, authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations for changing registered into coupon bonds. The only amendment of importance is that requiring the Secretary to return some kind of bonds of the same issue, rate of interest, &c., as those received.

The Niagara Ship Canal.

A delegation, including Representatives Lansing, of New York, and Donan, of Iowa, and Col. L. A. Thomas, of the Inter-State, appeared before the House Committee on Commerce this morning to urge the passage of the pending bill directing the Secretary of War to construct a ship canal around Niagara. The committee is favorably disposed toward the bill, and expect to report and pass it this session. It was stated this morning that the proposed canal would be six or seven miles long, and would cost from ten to fifteen millions of dollars. According to the plans, the canal might be constructed in two years.

The Historic Claim

of Dr. J. Milton Best, for $25,000, for the destruction of his house at Paducah, Ky., by the Union forces during the war, made its appearance in the House again to-day, in a bill introduced by Representative Smith, of New York. This bill appropriates $50,000 to pay all judgments given by the Court of Claims against the United States, and in addition to the item for Best contains $18,500 to pay a similar claim of Thomas P. Wallace, of Lexington, Missouri, on whose account the House sat all of one night last spring, only to have the bill vetoed in a day or two by the President. The bill goes to the Claims Committee, where it will probably sleep out the remainder of this congress.

Foreclosure in the Louisiana Case.

In the Supreme Court to-day Chief Justice Chase delivered the following opinion of the Court in the case of Governor Warmouth, of Louisiana, application for a writ of prohibition:

"We are all of opinion that when a final decree shall be rendered in the Circuit Court in this case, an appeal will lie to this Court. We are also of opinion that this Court has no jurisdiction in this case to issue a writ of prohibition until an appeal is taken."

The language of the Court is so obscure as to cause no little comment among members of the bar, and some of them declare it must have been used for the purpose of disguising the meaning of the Judges. The decision is believed, however, to mean that a writ of prohibition will not lie to an inferior court where there is a remedy by appeal to a writ of error.

In *ex parte* Greer, argued last spring, involving the constitutionality of the enforcement act, a writ of *habeas corpus* was to-day denied, the Judges being equally divided in opinion. The Court adjourns from Friday, December 20, to Monday, January 6.

The Credit Mobilier Committee

examined Mr. Colfax to-day, Mr. Colfax appeared in accordance with his own desires and made a general denial of the charges made during the campaign. James Brooks will to-morrow denounce the testimony of McComb, as far as it relates to him, utterly false.

Another War Claim.

The Methodist Book Concern, of Nashville, Tennessee, has filed with the House Committee claims for nearly $400 000 for the use of their buildings by Union soldiers during the war.

The Congressional Library.

Spofford, Librarian of Congress, presented to-day his annual report, which shows that during last year 9,409 volumes were added to the library, making the whole number December 1st, 240,346, and in addition about forty-five thousand pamphlets. The copyright law works satisfactorily, and brought into the Treasury last year $12,283, covering 14,164 publications, and an increase of fifteen per cent. during the past year. The Librarian recommends that the law be changed so that patent medicine and cigar box labels shall no longer be copyrighted as prints, but protected by registration at the Patent Office. Three plans for enlarging the library are again discussed, emphatic preference being given for a new building for the present part of one of the two squares whose purchase Congress last session authorized. Mr. Spofford calculates that by the end of the present century the library will contain a million volumes.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1872.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

The South Carolina Ku-Klux case, was disposed of in the Supreme Court to-day as follows: "Ex parte *Jr.* Jefferson Davis, on petition for *habeas corpus* on the application of the District of South Carolina. In this case Green was held under a bench warrant issued by the Circuit Court upon an indictment charging him with a conspiracy under the enforcement act of 1871. The question was whether this court had jurisdiction to discharge prisoner on *habeas corpus*. The Court are divided in opinion and the writ is denied in consequence. A decision upon the merits would be involved also a decision upon the question of the constitutionality of the enforcement act. Mr. Davis's residence, and the residences of J. K. Lowrey, Colonel W. F. Fox and others. If the nitro-glycerine taken away from them on Saturday had been exploded in the house it would have shattered all that portion of the city. The bill back of it would have thrown the entire section eastward, which would have thrown the river bridge down its piers, and struck Cottage Hill with terrific force. It would have been a volcano in its destructive power.

Legality of Charges for Marriage Brokerage.

A curious case involving the legality of charges for matrimonial brokerage has lately been decided in the Common Pleas Court in Dublin. One William Ireland of Tuam, in Connaught, was sued by his brother-in-law, named Cruice, to a Mrs. O'Brien, a blooming widow of twenty, who possessed a considerable fortune. Subsequently Mrs. Cruice, Ireland's sister, married the widow, and Ireland and the wealthy widow for a consideration, and this proposition was eagerly accepted. In the end Mr. Cruice sued Ireland for £150, the amount of bill in favor of Mrs. Cruice for £150 and interest thereon, the principal to be payable in six months after the marriage of Mrs. O'Brien, or in case of her decease she would become entitled to some property. In January, 1869, Ireland was married on this bond, and a demand made for two-and-half years interest; when Ireland, after some preliminary proceedings, refused to recognize the validity of the bond, declaring it fraudulent, inasmuch as Mr. and Mrs. Cruice had taken advantage of his ignorance and inexperience in order to induce him to sign it. The decision of the Vice-Chancellor was that the bond was fraudulent and void as being against public policy, and that Ireland was not liable in respect of it. After this decision Irish match-makers need not expect any further reward for their services than the approval of their own consciences.

THE WEATHER.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL OFFICER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1872, 8 P. M.

PROBABILITIES.

For the Northwest and Upper Lakes partly cloudy weather, higher temperatures, northwesterly to southwesterly winds, followed to-morrow by diminishing pressures. In Gulf and South Atlantic states higher pressures, southerly winds, generally windy, cloudy weather and light rain, clearing to-morrow, with lower temperatures at night. In the lower lake region, and thence over the Middle States, cloudy weather, increasing south winds and rain, clearing to-morrow. In Canada and New England southwesterly and southeasterly winds, cloudy weather, light snow and rain, with lower temperatures and increasing pressures to-morrow. The display of warning signals at lake ports has been suspended for the winter.

Severe Storm on the Nova Scotia Coast.

HALIFAX, December 16.—The gale of the 14th inst. did great damage to shipping along the coast of this Province. In Cape Britton, at Cow Bay, the barge M. B. Alinor and schooner Britannia, which were loading with coal for the United States, were driven ashore and totally wrecked. The brig B. L. George was damaged at International Pier, the brig Kate Upham, Belle and M. L. Troop were badly damaged, and the pier much injured. The tide was the highest known since the storm of 1869.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 16, 1872.

SENATE.

Mr. MORTON stated that the Election Committee during the recess recess had not investigated the charges against Senator Caldwell, of Kansas, owing to the difficulty of getting the members together.

Bills were introduced as follows:

By Mr. CARPENTER, regulating the taking of private property for public use. The bill provides that in all cases in which Congress has appropriated or shall hereafter appropriate money for the purchase of a site and erection thereon of any fort, magazine, arsenal, dock yard, postoffice, custom house or other needful building, or has appropriated or shall hereafter appropriate money for the purchase of any real estate for any public use, the President of the United states shall designate the secretary of some of the departments of the government whose duty it shall be to select the same, and cause it to be surveyed and represented upon a plot or map which, together with an estimate of its value and situation, shall be reported to the President. If the President shall approve thereof, it shall be the duty of said Secretary to procure to the United States the title of such site or real estate, if the same can be procured at and for a fair price and compensation; but if the same cannot be so obtained, or if said real estate, or any part thereof, shall be owned by infants, lunatics, or other persons incapable of conferring title, or belong to unknown owners, in any such case the matter shall be referred to the Department of Justice, and it shall become the duty of the Attorney General to apply to the Circuit Court of the United States for the district in which the same shall be situated, with the view of obtaining the property by legal proceedings in the manner set forth in the bill.

By Mr. POMEROY: Granting the right of way to the Kansas and Colorado Railroad: also to extend the time for the payment by settlers on Osage lands, in Kansas.

On motion of Mr. RAMSEY, the Secretary of War was instructed to communicate any information he may have concerning the damage done to the government works at Dutch Island by the late storms, and as to the cost for repairing them.

Mr. WINDOM called up his resolution for the appointment of a committee of five on a question proposing cheaper transportation from West to East. He modified the resolution by making the number of the committee seven.

Mr. HAMILTON, of Maryland, demanded the yeas and nays.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN wanted the question referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. STEVENSON objected to such reference, because the Committee on Commerce was not fit to consider the right of the federal government to construct local improvements.

Mr. THURMAN said this question had already been exhaustively discussed. If the object was to get a report on it, leaving its legal aspects untouched, he would support the resolution.

After further discussion the resolution was passed —yeas 56, nays 3, Messrs. Cole, Vickers and Hamilton, of Maryland.

Mr. CASSERLY introduced a bill granting the California Central Narrow Gauge Railroad Company certain rights over public lands at Benicia, California. Referred.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported, with amendments, the House bill authorizing the exchange of registered bonds for coupon bonds. As amended the bill authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to issue coupon bonds in exchange for registered bonds, in other respects of the same class and description; provided the expense of their issue be paid by the owner thereof, and under such regulation as the Secretary of the Treasury shall prescribe.

Mr. SHERMAN also reported from the Finance Committee, the House bill revising the laws relating to coinage laws, with amendments, among which is one providing for a trade silver dollar of 412½ grains troy, a silver half dollar of 192½ grains, and a quarter dollar and a dime respectively, one-half and one-fourth the weight of the fifty cent piece. None of these silver coins are to be legal tender at their nominal value, for any amount not exceeding four dollars, in any one payment.

A bill was introduced by Mr. CRAGIN for the relief of Miles Greenwood, of Cincinnati.

Mr. CRAGIN gave notice that he would call up to-morrow the bill heretofore reported from the Committee on Naval Affairs, to provide for the construction of ten sloops of war.

On motion of Mr. STEWART a resolution was adopted inst

The Daily Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1872.

It is sufficient answer to the rumor that an effort is to be made to supercede the Hon. H. B. Swoope, as United States Attorney for this district, to state that he was commissioned in the month of February, 1870, for the full term of four years, and cannot be removed until the expiration of his term, except by impeachment under the tenure of office act. The rumor, therefore, is as absurd as it is unfounded.

Both of the quasi Alabama Legislatures meet together to-day, each of them having accepted the compromise proposed by the Attorney General. The only real point involved in the controversy is as to which set of contestants from two counties of the State were lawfully elected as representatives. Great satisfaction is understood to be felt by conservative men of both parties with the arrangements made by the President for the pacific adjustment of the difficulty.

The police of Philadelphia yesterday between the hours of twelve and two o'clock, made an enumeration of the children in that city, between the ages of six and eighteen years—the object being to ascertain how many of the children attend public, private or select schools, how many are engaged in regular employment, and how many are being brought up in idleness and without education. The information sought to be obtained will be very important, and no doubt a good argument can be drawn from it in favor of compulsory education.

An excellent spirit thus far breathes through the proceedings, or rather the purpose, of the Credit Mobilier Investigating Committee. The prospects of an earnest struggle between the better and worse elements of both political parties in Congress are every day becoming more numerous. Particularly is this the case with regard to the Republican party. Everywhere the corruptionists have pretty nearly reached the end of their tether. It is to be hoped the Committee will hew squarely to the line in prosecuting the investigation, no matter into whose faces the chips fly. Let there be a rigid and conscientious carrying out of the principles of the great reform party of the nation.

It is reported that a sequel to the "Alabama" claims controversy is about to be acted between Germany and this country. It appears that this vessel, in one of its cruises, captured and sunk a vessel from Singapore, sailing under the English flag, but constituting the property, together with its valuable cago of rice, of a firm whose one partner is a British subject, while the other is a German, the latter being Prussian consul at Singapore. All applications for redress to the British authorities failing of effect, on the plea that redress was not to be got, the German partner, after four years of litigation, invoked the Prussian Premier's aid. The Alabama dispute not being then settled, Bismarck refused, but that obstacle being cleared out of the way, he recently gave a favorable answer, and will soon take up the case diplomatically.

The agitation for a remodeling of our existing jury system, to which we recently made reference, progresses apace; being stimulated by the measure now pending in the Legislature of Indiana, looking to the substitution of a majority jury verdict for an unanimous agreement, as at present required. It is maintained in some quarters that if unanimity must be secured to insure a verdict, it would be better to submit all cases to the arbitrament of two or three judges, and to abolish the jury system in toto. In Germany, when the vote of the jury stands six to six, the prisoner is acquitted, while a vote of seven against five leaves the decision to the Court, and a vote of eight against four convicts the prisoner. The system is said to work well, conducing alike to the safety of society and the ends of justice. Some plan of amendment, which will at least provide a way for securing men of intelligence and character as jurors, particularly in capital cases, will also, in course of time, undoubtedly be devised in our own country. And the present discussion of the defects of the system in vogue will be likely to hasten it.

The aid afforded by the general government in the prosecution of scientific enterprises, is exciting very favorable comment in Europe, and stimulating scientific research at home. The National Academy of Sciences recently adopted a resolution for a committee "to memorialize Congress concerning action upon scientific subjects which shall tend to elevate the nation," which received the support of Professor Agassiz, and elicited from him the remark that "the government had proved itself liberal in its aid to science." English scientists rebuke their own statesmen for their lack of encouragement of scientific exploration, by referring them to what is being done in this country in that direction. The Polar and Arctic explorations, the eclipse and transit observations, the Signal Service, and the scientific accompaniments of the Coast Survey, the Observatory and the Smithsonian Institute, are among the things which have excited the admiration of foreign *savants*, and won honor and distinction for our nation. A generous encouragement of these means of intelligence on the part of Congress will redound not only to the honor of the country, but to its general prosperity and happiness.

The *Financial Chronicle* says considerable satisfaction is expressed in financial circles generally over the House passage of Congressman Dawes' bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to issue coupon bonds in exchange for registered bonds, thus facilitating the conversion of either form of bonds into the other. A similar bill is before the Senate, and shortly the measure will, no doubt, become a law. The national banks are especially interested in this enlargement of their facilities for the sale of the six per cent. bonds deposited at Washington in proportion as they are replaced with five per cents. The new law when passed will give the banks all the facilities they want for this purpose. The necessity of the law arises out of the fact that although coupon bonds can by law be exchanged at Washington for registered bonds, and have been long so convertible at will, yet the registered bonds had not the same privilege of conversion, and the holder of a registered bond had no power of converting it into a coupon bond except by selling the one in the market and buying the other, which often caused a slight loss to the owner, because of the difference in price.

There is a widespread discontent in England, among the lower classes, which indicates radical changes in the structure of society and government. Free trade in land is a sentiment that is gaining strength rapidly, and it is held that the land-holders, who stand thirty thousand to thirty million, will have to accept free trade in land if they wish to avoid measures which will have less regard for their interests. The redistribution of political power, and the right of the agricultural laborers to the franchise, have become subjects of general discussion, and are urged as a cure for the oppressions to which the tillers of the soil are subject. The openness of the agitation, and the boldness of a class heretofore regarded as among the most abject and conservative, have excited no little alarm. The terrors of the law, the admonitions of the clergy, and other influences usually employed to allay popular discontent, have proved utterly useless, and trouble is apprehended unless large concessions are made. The spirit of insubordination has spread to other classes, as was evinced in the late successful strike for higher wages among the police of London, and the still more recent strike of the gas stokers. The working classes are discovering their own strength through these movements, and their discontent is taking practical shape in the different schemes of reform.

The President, in his last annual Message, indorses the recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture, relative to Congressional legislation to induce and protect the planting of forests in those sections which have been denuded of timber; that in disposing of the public lands there shall be a condition reserving one-tenth of it in timber where it exists, and for planting timber where there is none. Whatever may be the effect of the destruction of our forests—whether it tends to induce droughts and destroy the fertility of the soil, as well as to subject immense tracts to devastation by fire—it is undoubtedly true that the waste should be arrested, and the supply renewed by fresh planting, for the sake of the timber itself. The recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture is sufficiently important from this standpoint alone, if there was nothing else to be gained. But there is high authority for the theory that the native forests serve to retain moisture in the soil, and thereby prevent both droughts and floods. The French range of the High Alps, from 1846 to 1866 decreased one-fifteenth in population, owing to its gradually diminishing productiveness. A scientific examination was ordered by the government, and the examiners reported that the destruction of the forests was the cause of the desolation. They found no evidence that the yearly fall of rain was less than formerly, when the region was covered with trees; but on the contrary expressed the belief that a hundred acres of forest will attract no more rain than as many acres of turnips. The forests having been destroyed, however, the evaporation of surface water was greatly increased, and when the rain came the water ran down the slopes in torrents, scanning the mountains with gorges, and filling the valleys with gravel and debris. A portion of the land was replanted with trees, and the balance sodded with grass, and during the six years since the experiment was begun, there has been a very great improvement. Facts like these are worth volumes of theory, and Congress cannot begin too soon to carry out the recommendation relative to our native forests.

CHRISTIANIZATION OF CAPITAL.

It is certainly rather remarkable that neither the ridicule nor the misfortunes which the Jesuits have frequently incurred by meddling with business, and especially with banks, have sufficed to deter them from running similar risks. Only five or six years ago, a number of the Fathers brought odium upon their order by their innocent connection with a speculator in Brussels who gave himself out as a great capitalist, and succeeded in obtaining for investment all the savings of hundreds of poor Catholics, who followed the secular advice of their spiritual guides in trusting a rogue. More recently, about four years ago, the bursting of certain banks at Naples ruined thousands of poor people. These banks were under the protection and patronage of the clergy, chiefly Jesuits, and their avowed object was the Christianization of capital. They paid enormous interest on deposits, and thus tempted rich and poor, but especially the latter who had a little money, by the hope of doubling their capital in a few years. Men of business warned the people that no bank could honestly pay such interest as they were offered. But the clergy recommended the investment, and the interest was regularly paid, and multitudes made haste to take advantage of the opportunity of at once enriching themselves and spiritualizing capital. When after flourishing for some months, these Naples banks broke, their method was found to consist in paying the interest out of the deposits. Precisely the same game has been lately played in Bavaria. There the scene of the first banking operations for the Christianization of capital was the little town of Dachau, a few miles from Munich, and the leading operator was a lady named Spitzeder, a woman who very devoutly and a great friend of the Ultramontane clergy. The lady professed to have been long distressed by the thought that capital was not more faithfully employed in the service of the Catholic Church. It had also seemed to her a sin and a shame that under the apparent necessities of business the Faithful were compelled to confide their hardly earned money to the hands of heretics and unbelievers. She therefore proposed herself to found a bank at Dachau, which should put an end to that state of things so discreditable and injurious to holy church. The ultramontane priests at once and warmly entered into her project, and gave her their influence, which is great in that part of the world. In a short time the Dachau bank was unable to receive all the funds that were offered on deposit, and branch banks had to be established in other towns, even in Munich. Men of business and even an officer of the government warned the people that these banks could not last, but warning was in vain. The people believed in the priests, and especially in the Christianization of capital. Lately the breaking of the banks has carried ruin far and wide. Spitzeder's method of doing business was the same found successful at Naples: she paid the interest out of the deposits. We do not understand that the entire good faith of the Fathers has been questioned or doubted in any of these cases. They were simply imposed upon like the depositors.

The investigation of the *Credit Mobilier* scandal proceeds quietly, and, if the Washington correspondents are well informed and tell the truth, a determination exists in the rope in quarters to sift the charges to the bottom. Thus far perhaps the most important, at least the most exciting fact developed, is that the bribery practiced, if any bribery was practiced, was not confined to members of either of the great political parties of the country, but that members of both parties were involved. On the supposition; then, that the crime alleged to have been committed shall be completely proved, in other words, that both Republican and Democratic Congressmen of both Houses shall be indubitably shown to have sold their official influence and their votes, what will be the final result of the discovery? The subject opens a wide field for conjecture, and it is possibly idle and foolish to attempt to foretell consequences so uncertain. Both parties being equally guilty, of course the reproach will be utterly neutralized, rendered a mere *tu-quoque*, as a weapon of partisan warfare. Each being lodged in a glass house, neither will dare to throw stones at the other; both deeply conscious of human infirmity and reduced to silence by the sense of their common unworthiness, will of course put on sack cloth and sit in the ashes together. But will this condition of general repentance and hope of being able to do better in future be the end of the matter? What will Congress do? What will the people say? Rather, what will the people do? Will they simply regret the frailty of their representatives, wonder at the power of temptation, and reflect that, perhaps, under similar circumstances, they might themselves have succumbed to the same evil influence? This is certainly a familiar process of thought in this country, and a frequent result of it is to so relax public opinion as to render it incapable of inflicting those penalties which alone make its condemnation dreadful. In several of the States the people have for many years been so much accustomed patiently to think of the members of their legislatures as open to the pecuniary influence of rich corporations that they may not experience excessive difficulty in extending equal indulgence to their more distinguished representatives. The subject is really one of no slight importance. There was a time in American history when the necessity of the investigation at present going on in Washington would have created intense excitement throughout the nation. And, there are countries in Christendom, wherein there would be no uncertainty or difference of opinion as to the consequences of the crime which the investigation is designed to expose. But the world grows better or worse, and we lead the world.

The color manufacturing industry of the country recently made a successful movement in Congress for the protection of the important branch of business in which they are engaged. The bill before the last Congress placed on the free list a large number of paints and colors, in the manufacture of which large sums have been invested. They represented to Congress that the encouragement of home industry was the settled policy of the government; that the passage of the bill would destroy a branch of trade built up by many years of labor and scientific research, and in which millions of dollars had been spent; that paints and colors needed the protection of the government to fully as great an extent as linseed oil, white lead and chemicals, and that even under the old tariff, American manufacturers with difficulty competed with foreign; that any reduction in the tariff would take away their profits, while if the duty were entirely taken off the manufacture would be stopped in the United States, and a large amount of machinery specially adapted to the business would be a total loss, or would have to be removed to Canada. It was also shown how other interests would be injured were certain colors placed on the free list as proposed. For instance, if vermillion, or artificial cinnabar, were made duty free, the market would be supplied from China and Spain, the American trade would be ruined, and, in addition, the California quicksilver, now used at home, would be directed to Spain. These representations, fortified by many interesting details, having been made to the appropriate committees of both Houses, received due consideration, and notwithstanding the strenuous efforts of the free traders, the committee acknowledged the justness of the demands by striking from the free list the articles named. The oil and paint business is one of comparatively recent growth in this country, but it has very largely developed within the past five years. There are now twenty established firms of the manufacture of colors, and the consumption of mixed paints for the year 1867 is estimated at one hundred and seventy-four million pounds. Since then the production has largely increased, and every year is becoming greater, owing to the large number of wooden houses built, and the improvement in public taste for decorative painting.

The latest form of manifestation which the opposition of the mercantile classes to what they consider to be the excessive charges of transportation corporations has assumed, is the establishment of "freight unions," organizations of leading business interests, having respectively for their object the negotiation of the lowest possible rates of freight for the members, particularly on westward bound merchandise—their modus operandi being by the weight and influence of their commercial standing and their combination, to make more favorable terms than are afforded by the ostensible schedule of charges established and published by the various lines of road. The design of these unions or associations is to act on the freight management of the roads independent in their route, but particularly on competing lines. In St. Louis there is a protective union of this character, with a capital of a quarter of a million, while a similar association exists in Chicago, with a subscribed capital of like amount. That they have, at least to a considerable degree, proved a power over transportation managements, is evident from the fact that at a recent meeting of representatives of the principal corporations in the country, it was unanimously agreed that upon the expiration of the contracts now in force with these unions, they should not be extended or renewed in any form.

Prince Bismarck, it appears from yesterday's cable dispatches, has lately been the subject of a great deal of discussion in the Berlin papers. In fact, throughout almost the entire controversy between the government and the *Herrenhaus*, Bismarck's attitude was such as to give rise to various conjectures concerning his real sentiments on the subject. It is even alleged that one of the grounds on which the feudalist party in the *Herrenhaus* refused to pass the reform bill was the belief that Bismarck, in his desire to effect the overthrow of Count Eulenberg, the Minister of the Interior, secretly wished the *Herrenhaus* to triumph. The Prince's grievance is said to be that Eulenberg and certain other persons about the Emperor enjoy more of the royal confidence than he does, and especially that in the construction of this reform bill which has caused so much agitation, he was not consulted as frequently as his position of Chancellor entitled him to be. Hence, it is said he has long expected him, for the gratification of personal resentment and for the removal of his antagonists from the royal confidence, to aid them in defeating a measure of which he was known to approve. While it is admitted to have been a remarkable circumstance that Bismarck, in spite of urgent calls, persistently declined to take part in the contest between the government and the *Herrenhaus*, his admirers deny that he is influenced by any such petty motive as those ascribed to him. And the denial is certainly corroborated by some well known facts in his history. However, it seems likely enough that just now the Prince is engaged in one of those periodical struggles with court intrigues for the curtailment of his power, from which struggles it is usual for him to come forth victorious.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

The new shops of the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, to be built between the Hackensack and Passaic rivers, near Jersey City, will be when completed the largest structures of the kind in the world. Some idea of their immense size may be obtained from the statement that one of the foundation walls is a mile in length.

The *Miners' Journal* estimates the consumption of coal of all kinds in the United States in 1872 at 40,500,000 tons, being an increase of about eighty-six per cent. in eight years.

A circular has been issued to the employees of the Louisville Short Line Railroad, which, among other things, says: "No man has a right to hold a position which brings him in immediate contact with the public who does not know how to be civil and polite, or is not disposed to make himself agreeable to those with whom he may be thrown into business relations."

The New Iberia (La.) *Sugar-Bowl* says of the mines of Attakapas: "To say nothing of the unsurpassed agricultural resources, these two mines doubtless contain $100,000,000 worth of minerals, and when they are both worked to their full capacity, as they must soon be, a greater impetus will be given to business in Western Louisiana than was ever known in the California gold regions, or in Western Pennsylvania among the oil wells."

The editor of a Texas paper professes to have seen a man who was hanged a short time ago. "He said that when the cart was being drawn from under him and he was being launched at least out of this world, he caught the rope in his teeth and remained suspended in that manner until his world-be executioners were out of sight, when he ascended the rope and released himself. He says he cut down one of the other men, but was unable to resuscitate him."

An extensive bed of fine hematite ore, immediately on the line of the Washington, Cincinnati and St. Louis narrow-gauge road, near the top of Shenandoah Mountain, in North River Gap, was discovered by the engineers of that road a few days ago.

The Supreme Court of California has just decided that, until the new code goes into effect in January, the testimony of a Chinese or Mongolian witness is not admissable, under existing law, against a white person.

There is great activity in Indiana at present on the temperance question. A strong effort will be made to secure the passage of a stringent bill on the subject by the Legislature.

For the past two weeks there has been considerable commotion among a number of Baltimore building societies, caused by two secretaries absconding, and taking with them upwards of $32,000 in cash. One of these said to have absconded is credited with fleecing five societies out of $20,000, whilst the other worthy was content to secure $12,000. Scores of poor men and women have been robbed of the savings of years.

The Boston *Commercial Bulletin* sees no room for supposing that the Boston boot and shoe trade for the coming season will be less than usual. The total shipments since January 1 have been 1,217,440 cases against 1,176,981 for the corresponding time last year.

About two years ago Horace Greeley bought a joint interest in a farm in Buckingham county, Virginia. The title is still in dispute, and requires a lawsuit to settle it, but there is no doubt that it will be confirmed. The land is extremely valuable, and is known to contain a quantity of auriferous ore under the surface. It is now occupied by negroes rent free.

The Chicago *Inter-Ocean* complains that the exactions of the railway and warehouse combination have driven many millions of bushels of grain from that market, with the result of building up Toledo as a great wheat center, and adding largely to the trade of Milwaukee.

PERSONAL.

Octave Pavy, the would be Arctic explorer, is "dead broke" in San Francisco, says a correspondent, and will probably give up the business he entered upon with so great a flourish. He is said to be thoroughly disheartened.

Mr. Gratiot Washburne, son of the Hon. E. B. Washburne, United States Minister to France, has succeeded Colonel Frank Moore as Assistant Secretary of the American Legation in Paris.

The expectant Earl of Roscommon, an inheritor of vast Irish estates, is a poor but honest young man named Dillon, who nurses his hopes and his genealogy at Memphis, Tenn.

The French National Assembly contains 2 Princes (Orleans), 7 dukes, 30 marquises, 52 counts, 17 viscounts, 18 barons, and 97 other noblemen. Classed according to occupations, there are 163 landed proprietors, 155 barristers, 48 manufacturers, contractors and ironmasters, 45 officers of the army, 35 judges or former judges, 25 engineers, 23 medical men, 21 professors, 19 notaries and ex-notaries, 19 wholesale warehousemen, 14 naval officers, 10 attorneys, 5 bankers, 2 shipowners, 2 apothecaries, 1 bishop, 1 parish priest, 1 Protestant clergyman, 1 silk-spinner, 1 chiseller, 1 former compositor, 1 silk-weaver, 1 dealer in jewelry, 1 ex-tax-collector, and 1 dealer in soft goods. The rest of the deputies are savants, journalists, authors and ex-officials of former governments. M. Pory Papy, the deputy for Martinique, is a negro.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* says that it is able to state, on the very best authority, that there is no truth in the alarming paragraphs which have recently appeared concerning the state of Mr. Carlyle's health. "They are all wrong," as he expresses it. Mr. Carlyle is in the full enjoyment of his usual vigor and good spirits, and takes his daily walks with surprising power of limb. A correspondent writes; "It is never pleasant for the youngest of us to be told we are looking awfully ill, even when we are in the best of health; and although Mr. Carlyle conceals any sense of pain at these reports—if it exists at all—he very heartily expresses his contempt for the cowardice of such catchpenny paragraphs, which are at once cruel and false. Probably these reports originate in ignorance. There is a gentleman often seen in Chelsea, much older than Mr. Carlyle, and very infirm, whose hat and clothes are so constructed that their owner is frequently taken for the distinguished author of *Sartor Resartus*."

The cable announces that Viscountess Beaconsfield, wife of Mr. Disraeli, and who had for some time been seriously ill, is now dead.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin, and the tender touch of it which the celebrated author of *Lothair* has so frequently exhibited toward his wife, has, in a country where the domestic virtues rank pre-eminent, done a great deal to make a host of his countrymen and women entertain for him almost the regard of kinship. Had Lady Beaconsfield, who was, at the time of her marriage to Mr. Disraeli, a widow, and certainly as advanced in life as himself, been the most lovely of *debutantes*, her distinguished husband could not have lavished upon her more devoted affection than he has ever showed. It need scarcely be added that her devotion to him knows no bounds. A proof of it was afforded on the memorable occasion, when, although in an agony of pain, on account of her finger having been slammed between her carriage and its door, she would not utter a word about it, as she was driving him down to the House of Commons, when she knew that his mind was full of a coming great speech. She always called her husband "Dizzy," but lets no one else take that liberty in her presence. This very happy marriage has, unfortunately, not been blest with issue, and within less than thirty years the family of Disraeli will probably be extinct.

CHEAPER TRANSPORTATION.

The Great Question of the Day—What Other States Have Done—What Pittsburgh Must Do.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Believing the people of Pennsylvania and especially the city of Pittsburgh, to be deeply interested in the matter of transporting freights and passengers, and considering the reasonableness and probability of fixing some just rule that shall regulate and control charges in these matters, I have concluded to give you an outline of what other States have done to protect their citizens against unreasonable charges and unjust discriminations. No State in the Union has such large quantities of heavy and bulky freights to move as Pennsylvania, and the question of cheap transportation to her citizens is of vital importance. It is estimated that one-third of the cost to consumers of general produce is made up in transportation, while the cost added to coal and iron is fully one-half. Cheaper transportation is the thing of all others that Pittsburgh needs, and (if reasonable and practicable) should have, to advance her material interests. This is one of the great and commanding questions of the day for the whole country. The President of the United States, in his message just laid before Congress, says:

"The attention of Congress will be called during the present session to various enterprises for the more certain and cheaper transportation of the constantly increasing surplus of the Western and Southern products to the Atlantic seaboard. The subject is one that will force itself upon the legislative branch of the government sooner or later, and I suggest that immediate steps be taken to procure available information to insure equitable and just legislation. If production increases more rapidly than the means of transportation, * * * the embarrassing accumulation and products of the whole country will require additional facilities, and cheaper ones, for the more bulky articles of commerce to reach a market."

Look at the millions upon millions of wealth lying in the hills in the near surroundings of our city, articles of prime necessity, and greatly needed on all our Eastern seaboard, and our people, in spite of the great market, are shut out because transportation is too high. The question then presents itself: is not this charge higher than it ought to be? With present facilities could not these charges be reasonably lowered and still afford a fair profit? There is little doubt upon this subject; but why is it not done? One principal reason is because corporations created for the main and principal purpose of bulky articles of commerce to reach a market, and for the accommodation of passengers, have been, wrongfully and against the interest of the people of the Commonwealth, allowed to embark in various works, and industries producing articles for transportation—and where the companies have not directly embarked in these enterprises, that are foreign to their charters, the officers who control the business and transportation, have projected and are running large manufacturing establishments, and are largely engaged in the mining and transporting of coal and other minerals, and thereby it has become the pecuniary interest of the officers, who control trans portation, to stifle all competition as far as they dare; and when the rates of freight are not so exclusive, where it is the personal and pecuniary interests of officials, they can evade and deny facilities to others outside on the plea of not being able to get cars, crowded road or supply of motive power. This is a great evil, and about the worst to be overcome in the demand for cheaper transportation, with the present composition and management by persons outside of corporate rings or the officers, so connected, that for all practical purposes they are one and the same thing. Some one may say the rates are fixed, and that alone as fair for one as another; but shippers know the rates are not fixed alike for all, but great injustice is done in arranging the special rates, lower than the general charges, for certain persons or companies.

In England the public convenience and necessity has induced the government to take and control all the telegraph lines, and this same policy is now commanding the attention of our general government. If governments take the property and franchises of railroad and canal companies, upon a fair appraised value, why not all other means of transportation if the real business interests of the country require it? There is no doubt it can be done, and the law of eminent domain can be as rightfully applied to all the property of corporations as to the property of individuals. The Commonwealth gives to the tine in free simple to your farm or your town lot; it is as clear and perfect a title—as high and solemn a contract as the Legislature can lawfully make with any corporation, if the property of an individual is wanted for a county or village or city road, he cannot place the sacredness of his title against the will of the law making or law declaring power, but must yield his property to the public necessity, and the words "public necessity" have been, and now are, universally construed to mean "public convenience," and this seems to be an idea fully recognized in having taken, under the law of eminent domain, the private property of individuals, that somehow it would be a violation of their charter or a breach of their contract with the Commonwealth for the people, the sovereign power in the State, under the same law, to take their property and franchises.

Corporations cannot hold their grants by any higher title than the humble citizen has to his farm or his town lot. It is only a question of public necessity or public convenience, to be passed upon by the law-making power, and secondly the question of policy. Railroads are peculiar institutions, requiring and demanding much experience and rare skill in their management. Officers of great demonstrated ability are often retained against the true interest of a stockholder, while they may feel convinced that in many things matters might be done better, by knowing the difficult complications of railroad management, and the scarcity of ability for that special work, they bear wrongs, for fear that a change will make matters worse. In most other employments the master can readily control his business and his employees, but it is not so readily done in railroading, especially in the higher and controlling officers. There is no doubt but that stockholders and the public would be greatly benefitted by bringing the management of railroad corporations more under the surveillance of the law.

Some of the most important of these questions have been very fully considered and settled in the other States. In the Constitution of Illinois, adopted in 1870, we find the following:

Art 9. Sec. 2. "All existing charters or grants of special privileges under which organizations shall have not taken place, or which shall not have been in operation within ten days after this constitution takes effect, shall have no validity."

This provision is good for the public, and with a further provision that all future charters should be void unless the business for which the corporation is created should be commenced in not less than six months, and steadily pursued forward to completion as soon as practicable, would stop the business now practiced of obtaining charters, and doing nothing under them, merely to head off others or prevent competition.

Again, same article, Sec. 4: "No law shall be passed giving the right to construct street railways within the consent of the local authorities being first had."

Same article, Sec. 9, provides that all railroads doing business in the State shall keep an office, with books open for inspection by the public, wherein shall be kept a full stock account, giving names, amounts, residence, &c., &c., of all stockholders, and that the directors make return, annually, under oath, to the auditor of public accounts, of "all their acts and doings," and such special matter as "shall be required by law."

Ibid, Sec. 10. The rolling stock and all moveable property of railroads shall be considered personal property, and liable to execution the same as property of individuals.

Ibid. Sec. 11. "No railroad corporation shall consolidate in stock, property, or franchise with any other owning a parallel or competing line; and in no case shall consolidation take place except upon sixty days public notice to stockholders. And if at any time any stockholder shall not assent to the consolidation, he shall be entitled to receive the value of his stock, to be ascertained by three disinterested persons, one to be appointed by himself, one by the remaining stockholders, and one by the two thus appointed, and the award of any two of these appraisers shall be binding and conclusive."

Ibid, Sec. 12. "Railways heretofore, or that may hereafter be constructed in this State, are declared public highways, and shall be free to all persons for transportation of their persons or property thereon, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law; and the General Assembly shall from time to time pass laws fixing reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on the different railroads of this state."

Ibid, Sec. 13. "No railroad shall issue any stock or bonds except for money, labor or property actually received and applied to the purposes for which such corporation was created, and all stock dividends or other fictitious increase of stock or indebtedness shall be void."

Ibid, Sec. 14. "The exercise of the power, and the right of eminent domain shall never be so construed or abridged as to prevent the taking of the property and franchises of incorporated companies already organized, and subjecting them to the public necessity the same as individuals." And the same section provides for a trial by jury in all cases, when corporations shall be interested for or against the right of eminent domain.

Ibid, Sec. 15. "The General Assembly *shall* pass laws to correct abuses and prevent unjust discrimination and extortion in the rates of freight and passenger tariffs on the different railroads of this State, and enforce such laws by adequate penalties, to the extent, if necessary, of forfeiture of their property and franchise."

The constitution of West Virginia of 1872 has provision with regard to corporations substantially the same as Illinois—article 8, section 5, is the same provision as article 9, section 9, of Illinois. Article 9, section 2, provides that all railroads shall report annually to the Auditor of Public Accounts, setting forth the condition of their affairs, the operations for the year, and such other matters as shall be required by law. Article 9, section 8, is the same as provided in article 9, section 10, of Illinois. Article 9, section 9, is the same as sections 13 and 15 of Illinois, except the West Virginia provides that the Legislature shall pass laws to prevent "abuses and unjust discriminations *between through and local of any* freight and passengers. The constitution of West Virginia expressly declares all railways theretofore or thereafter constructed in that State, public highways, free to all persons for transportation of freight or passengers, under such regulations as the Legislature shall prescribe, and also same article, section 11, that no railroad corporation shall consolidate its stock, property or franchise, with any other company owning a parallel or competing line, or obtain the control of such competing line by lease or other contract," &c. This latter provision is more comprehensive and better than the similar provision in Illinois. The provision of West Virginia upon the subject of eminent domain is the same as that in Illinois in article 9, section 14, [see above] and both these provisions are defective in limiting its application to "incorporated companies already organized." By saying now organized or to be organized would be better.

The constitutions of these two States are the latest that have been adopted, and I have selected them as containing a fair expression of what public opinion has arrived at, from experience, in the management of railroads to the present time. These are very broad and comprehensive provisions, and quite strong enough to secure the great public from unjust charges and management, because these provisions go to the whole matter. These are changes that may or may not be followed by our Constitutional Convention. Perhaps much depends upon our Legislature now, who are deeply interested in this subject, and the force with which they shall urge the matter upon the attention of the Convention. The subject, no doubt, will in some way be passed upon.

The charges for transporting freights and passengers are nearly as high in this country as in Europe, and yet we find that it costs to make railroads in England one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars per mile; in France, one hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars per mile; while the average of this country is about one hundred and eight dollars per mile—not the one-sixth of the cost in England, or one-fifth the cost in France, and yet railroad charges for freights are about the same; for passengers in Europe the charge is about one cent a mile more. These charges are not at all in proportion to cost. (It is right to say that the cost of the Pennsylvania Central was forty-five thousand dollars per mile.) The average charges for way and through passengers in the State of New York is two and a half cents per mile. The New York Central, the longest by one hundred miles of any road in that State, charges a uniform rate of two cents per mile on all first-class passengers, and one cent on *all* second class. The Hudson River charges two cents on through passengers and two and a half cents per mile on way. You can take all the horse railroads of New York and Pennsylvania with the charge of no amount to one cent per mile; and yet these horse roads are good stock, and pay good dividends. Cannot the steam roads carry as cheap as the horse roads? The average length of city horse roads in New York and Brooklyn is eleven miles, and the charge is six cents for the trip—a fraction over one-half a cent per mile, and all these roads make good dividends! These are facts that may assist in arriving at conclusions that would be just if applied to steam roads. The Pennsylvania Central will carry a passenger from Chicago through our State for one and three-fourths of a cent per mile, while if the passenger starts from Pittsburgh or any other point in the State, he is charged double that sum; and discriminations nearly the same are made against our people on freights. It is perfectly clear that, either the Chicago man is carried too cheap or the Pennsylvanian is charged too dear. If the road cannot afford to carry the Chicago man for that rate, and is losing by it, is it fair to make the Pennsylvanian pay not only make up the loss, but also pay enough to afford a profit and give dividends to her shareholders? Or are the people of this State to be compelled to balance the profit and loss account on the freights and passengers from other States, in order that the corporation may compete with the New York lines? There is little doubt how this matter really is. There is no loss on the Chicago passenger or Western freights, but there is a profit of over one hundred per cent. on the people carried in this State; and this large profit made off of the freight of this State creates the fund that purchases, constructs and stocks other roads over the Western and Southern States. It is well known that the Pennsylvania Central does not declare dividends, or the amount of her clear profits. The Directors have resolved not to pay to stockholders a money dividend exceeding four per cent. semi-annually, but for all clear profits over that amount the company will issue stock dividends, and the money on which these stock dividends are based is used in purchasing and building other roads. This is a shrewd plan, as stock dividends escape paying taxes to the Commonwealth.

The Pennsylvania Central reports to the Auditor General under the oath of the President of the road that the charges for "through and local freight and coal," is 1,853-10,000 cent per ton of 2,000 pounds per mile, or about one and seven-sixteenths of a cent, while the cost is not seven-eighths of a cent per ton per mile. The Philadelphia and Reading road reports the charges on coal per ton per mile, at one and three-fourths of a cent, while the cost of carrying coal per ton per mile is three-fourths of a cent; other freights, cost of carriage, is one and one-seventh of a cent per ton per mile; cost of carriage of passengers is one and a quarter cent per mile. The cost of carriage of passengers on the Pennsylvania Central is put down at one and fifteen-sixteenths of a cent. This is called approximate cost, and no doubt is a high estimate. Passengers on the Philadelphia and Reading road are charged a uniform rate of two and one-half cents per mile. While the Pennsylvania Central charges way passengers not less than three cents. The latter road carried 6,878,843 tons of freight in 1871, and this 2,448,947 tons was bituminous coal, nearly one-half of all. The earnings for freight were over four-teen million dollars, while the passengers paid $3,875,656 46, about one-fourth of the amount paid for freights. The number of through passengers for the year was 756,964; number of *local* passengers was 4,609,985—over twenty-six local to one through, and the proportion of local to through freight was over five to one, and yet the local passengers and local freight are charged considerably higher than through. This is where the discrimination is made that is unjust to our people. The best customers are charged about fifty per cent. more than the poorer ones. Why? simply because what are called through passengers and through freights have the advantage of competing lines, while our people, having no such advantage, must pay the price charged. The only remedy of our people is to bring such corporations under the control of the organic law, in such manner that while due justice will be done to our own people, no injustice shall be done to the stockholders of the railroads. The paid up capital stock of the Pennsylvania Central road is forty one millions, with a total bonding and funded debt of thirty millions, making capital and debt of $71,000,000. This is the investment, paid up and outstanding debt, on which interest is paid. The entire improvement of this capital in 1871 was nearly $19,000,000, or about twenty-eight per cent. Out of this all expenses are paid, and the balance is appropriated to dividends, taxes, construction and interest. The great evils are the tendency to consolidation and to increase the capital without increasing capacity to earn. There is a limit to human capacity, and but very few men can manage with economy great and long lines of road, while a shorter line under one management could be more expertly and economically conducted, and no doubt stockholders will learn this fact to their great loss. The business men of Pittsburgh should at once give all possible information to the delegates to the Constitutional Convention upon the subject of "discrimination" in freight tariffs.

Thos. Howard.

The editor of the Bellefonte *Watchman*, P. Gray Meek, publishes a statement to the effect that a combination has been formed to defeat the re-election, if Senator Cameron, that Mr. Towers has already deposited a large sum for the purpose of purchasing Republican members of the Legislature, and intends spending two hundred thousand dollars if necessary to accomplish his end. The Harrisburg *Telegraph*, commenting on this statement, remarks: "We have only the Bellefonte Democratic organ as authority for it, but if it be true, as alleged, we would call Mr. Towers' attention to the fate of the once famous Dr. Jayne, of Philadelphia, who, it was said, was also anxious to have a seat in the United States Senate, and took the same method now proposed to accomplish his ends, but who, after getting rid of upwards of FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS CASH, missed his aim, and escaped imprisonment with considerable trouble."

As an illustration of the rapid growth of Australian manufactures, it is stated that a contract for building fifteen new locomotives for new lines of railroads has been awarded to private companies at Melbourne and Ballarat. A few years ago the execution of such a contract by colonial manufacturers would have been regarded as almost an impossibility.

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At prices ranging from 25 to 50 Cents per Yard. Also, a magnificent stock of
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Indorsed by many eminent physicians of Pittsburgh and elsewhere. Food for INFANTS and INVALIDS. Remember that Starch is not Food. It must be converted into Dextrine either in the stomach or by mechanical means. Our process saves the stomach this labor, as well as preserves the whole of the wheat.
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$50,000 SIX PER CENT. FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, Turtle Creek Division, at 86 and Accrued Interest.

This Mortgage is a FIRST LIEN on the first twelve miles of the Road, and is a lien to the whole Road, has sixteen years to run, is an A 1 solid security, and pays 7 per cent. on the investment.

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Corner Fourth Avenue and Smithfield Street.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 16, 1872.

The local money market is quiet, with an absence of that feeling of excessive closeness which so much distressed all classes in the immediate past. The banks cannot, however, take quite all the offerings of their customers, and borrowers must, therefore, curtail their operations in proportion. This state of affairs is more healthy than when money is abundant for the banks, not having to seek investments, scrutinize more closely the paper they discount, and thus get a better class of investments, borrowers finding it difficult to get accommodations are not tempted to go into plans of doubtful propriety, but confine their operations to the legitimate line of their business, accepting no extraordinary risks. The situation, therefore, is one governed by conservative influences and assuming a more hopeful feeling.

Rates are sustained to stringent prices, and speculative borrowers must pay whatever the lender accepting the risk can compel.

Exchange on the East is abundant and bank notes command a premium of 75 per cent. at clearing house settlements.

—Congress is applying itself to business more assiduously than usual so early in the session. Senator Cole has introduced into the Senate and is pushing forward for consideration a bill to substitute greenbacks for national currency, and to withdraw the latter from circulation. He fails, however, to provide a market for the $400,000,000 government bonds now held by the banks. The bill will scarcely become a law.

—On Thursday the House passed almost unanimously the bill authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to exchange registered bonds issued at expense of the bounty fund. House also passed the Pension Appropriation bill—the second this session—and a substitute for the Land Bounty bill. The substitute is to own every soldier or sailor, or his widow or minor orphans, to enter one hundred and sixty acres of land, in their own name, in person or by agent, but it must be void any sale or agreement for sale of the land made prior to the entry and the actual delivery of the patent for it to the person to whom issued, i. e., to the soldier, sailor, widow or orphans concerned. The bill is believed to remove the danger of the land warrants being sold for a nominal price.

—Senator Sherman estimates the annual saving by the passage of the Internal Revenue bill at $2,000,000 or more. The retrenchment was quite necessary, and has been very generally demanded by the country, and the Senate has showed unexpected betterment in passing the bill, which cuts off so many of its personal retainers. Some amendments attached to the measure make it necessary that it shall go back to the House for concurrence, which will not, however, probably be long delayed.

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cook & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	117¾	117¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	112¾	112¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	112¾	113¼
U. S. Bonds of 1865	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	116¼	116¼
U. S. Bonds of 1867	116¼	116¼
U. S. Bonds of 1868	116¾	116¾
Currency 6s	112¾	112¾

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	112¾
United States 6s of 1881	117⅝
United States 5-20s of 1862	112¾
United States 5-20s of 1864	113¼
United States 5-20s of 1865	113¾
United States 10-40s	109½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	116¼
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	116½
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	116¾
Currency Sixes	112¾

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, &c., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

December 16, 1872.	10:30 A.M.	12:30 M.	2:30 P.M.
Gold	112¾	112¾	112¾
Canton	59	———	———
Western Union Tel	78	———	———
Quicksilver	37½	37½	37½
Pacific Mail	46	46	46
Adams Express	56	56	56
Wells, Fargo Express	80	———	———
American Express	57½	———	———
United States Express	———	———	———
New York Central	96½	96¾	96¾
Erie	19¾	———	———
Michigan Central	91½	91¾	91¾
Illinois Central	118	118	118
Cleveland and Pittsburgh	95¾	95¾	95¾
Chicago and Northwest	87¾	87¾	87¾
Do preferred	90¾	90¾	90¾
Rock Island	94½	94½	94½
St. Paul	34½	34¾	34¾
Do preferred	64	64	64
Wabash	40	———	———
Do preferred	65	65¼	64
Fort Wayne	92	92¼	92
Ohio and Mississippi	30	30	30
Pacific	———	———	———
Chicago & Alton	———	———	———
Do. preferred	———	———	———
Boston, Hartford & Erie	———	———	———
Hartford and Erie	———	———	———
New Jersey Central	112	———	———

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Penna Central	56½	Lehigh Valley R. R.	59
Phila. and Erie	27	North Pennsa. R. R.	53
Lehigh Navigation	84¾	United Co.'s of N. J.	123
Catawissa	32¾	Schuylkill Navigat'n	13½
Oil Creek & A. V. R.	85½	Reading	98½

Milwaukee Market.

MILWAUKEE, December 16.—Flour quiet and unchanged. Wheat in demand and firmer; No 1 Milwaukee $1 21. No 2 do $1 15½. Oats dull and lower; No 2, 30c. Corn dull and lower; No 2, 41c. Barley firm and in fair demand; fall No 2, 66c.

Nashville Market.

NASHVILLE, December 16.—Flour, middling up-land 18½c. Flour in good demand; superfine $6 25. Wheat in good demand; white $1 60@1 65. Corn in demand by un-housed. Provisions active. Bulk shoulders 4½c; sides 6½c. Lard—kettle, dried 8½@9c. Hogs $5 75@4 00.

Oswego Market.

OSWEGO, N. Y., December 16.—Wheat firm and quiet. Corn quiet, prime up here Canada $1 01; by rail quoted $1 02.

THE receipts of pig iron at Cincinnati for November were as follows: The receipts in pig iron for the same time were on large as common. O. H. Brand & Co., City Weigher reports as followed: From Kenton Furnace, 496 tons; Clinton Furnace, 75 tons; Buffalo Furnace, 96 tons; Lawrence Furnace, 80 tons; Ohio, 1 ton; Lake Furnace, 70 tons; Vesta Furnace, 186 tons; Bellaire Furnace, 312 tons; Mt. Savage Furnace, 240 tons; Cornwall Furnace, 96 tons; Hamilton Furnace, 252 tons; Pennsylvania Furnace, 150 tons; Monitor Furnace, 150 tons; Washington Furnace, 60 tons; Total, 2,903 tons.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 16, 1872.

RUMMER.—There has been all sorts of weather since our last—snow, sleet and rain—but what another day may bring forth would be difficult to predict with accuracy. The markets show little or no change in prices, nor will there be in leading articles until after the bridge of the first proximo has been passed over.

Below will be found the ruling quotations of the market, the reader being especially reminded that they are wholesale unless special mention is made of the fact:

APPLE BUTTER.—Sales made in a jobbing way at country location, the latter for prime article.

APPLES.—Are selling on the basis of $3 75@4 per bbl for choice; extra bds, common, 4½@5; refined 6@6½; dried, quarters, halfs 4½@5; peeled 6@6½.

ASHES.—Pearls 6½@7; pots 6½@6½.

BEANS.—Are selling at $1 75@1 80 per bu; $3 50 per bbl; half bbl, $1 90; quarter bbl, $1 00; small, $5 50 for half bbl, Porter $10 ₰ bbl. When packages are returned $3 are allowed for barrels and $1 50 for half do.

BUTTER.—Good cooking and selling apples sell up to 4½@5 ₰ pound; common to good 3½@4; Strictly prime 5@6 ₰ pound.

BEANS.—Sales prime navy at $2 50@2 75; common grades $2 to $ bushel.

CHEESE.—Market quiet and prices unchanged. Sales in small way at 13@13½ ₰ lb.

BACON AND PROVISIONS.—We have no change in prices to note, and quote as follows: Sugar cured hams 15½; sugar cured sh oulders 8½; plain shoulders 6½; rib sides 8½; clear rib sides 9½; clear sides free; breakfast bacon 13c; dried beef 18c; mess pork $ 5 00; ham sausage 10c; lard, in tier 6½, in small, 7@8c, tubs, 7½c; lard, in kegs and buckets, 7½@8; pigs feet, $1 50 per keg; pigs feet, per half bbl, $2 00. Receipts, sales 3,718 pieces.

BUTTER.—The supply of choice butter falls short of the demand. Prime roll commands 28@30c; baker's portion $ lb. Receipts 56 packages.

BAKER BAKING POWDER.—Is in fair demand at the following quotations: 1 lb cans $2 75 per doz; ½ lb cans $1 75 per doz; ¼ lb cans $1 00 per doz.

BRAN AND MIDDLINGS.—We give the following quotations: Prime New York winter, 16½@16½c; Ohio Goshen 15½@16c; Daisy 15½@16c; Factory 14½@15c.

CIDER.—Sales are reported at $5@7, as to quality.

CRANBERRIES.—We quote Sackett Bene berries at $14@15; Early Black, $12@13; Cole, $10@12; common and unthrashed $9 to $12 ₰ bbl.

CARBON OIL.—Market moderately active at 23½@24c ₰ gallon for 150 tests standard brands; jobbing lots 25c.

CORNSTARCH AND GLOSS.—Sales are reported at 8½@9c.

CORNMEAL AND RYE.—A fair demand is reported with sales at 4c ₰ case.

DRIED HOPS.—Sales at 5@5½c ₰ lb. There is a fair demand.

DRIED FRUIT.—Apples 4@5c; peaches, halves, 7@8c; quarters, 5@6c; cherries, 10@11c.

EGGS.—There is a perfect dearth of prime fresh eggs, and prices remain firm at 34@35c ₰ dozen; limed 29@30c.

FLOUR.—There is a prospect of an advance in some grades of western flour. Dispatches were shown us to-day from the Penn and Rising Sun mills to their agents in this city advising them to buy in their future requirements, as wheat was extremely scarce and a vancing in price. We do not alter our figures, and quote western brands as follows: Penn Mills, $6 75; Rising Sun, $7 00; Minnesota Island, $8 00; Fonda Best, $7 25. Receipts 1,000 bbls. Shipments 3,000 bbls.

FEATHERS.—No. 1 live geese feathers 72@75c per lb; No. 2 do 60@65c; mixed 50@55c; shipping 40@45c; crop 30@35c; Southern 25@30c.

FISH.—The market is quiet and firm at the following quotations: white fish at $5 50 per half barrel; mackerel, shore, $20@22 per barrel; No. 1 do $17@18; No. 2 do $15; mackerel, Spanish, $22 per barrel; in small packages, $4 75 and $5 in barrels; new cod fish, $6 50 per quintal; new Labrador split $6 50@6 00; new Lavender $7 50.

GROCERIES.—Trade opens out rather quiet this week owing partly to the rage of the storm which set in on Monday morning, but there will be no perceptible reviral of business until after the 1st of January, as merchants are not disposed to stock up excepting for immediate wants until that time. There is a better feeling in sugar, and the price of refined will be higher before it is lower. Holders of offees are firm in their views and will not sell except at outside figures. Teas are in request and are steady in price. Merchants who have been hoping to buy New Orleans molasses at last year's prices will be disappointed. We believe there will be nothing made by holding off. We annex quotations of actual sales:

Sugar.—Knight's yellow 9¾c; Reyl, G & Co, C, 10¼c; Wood's yellow 10¾c; Knight's extra C 11¼c; Hasenpuger & Co's yellow 11¾c; H A E, extra C 12¼c; Monumental C 12c; W, W & Co's extra C 12¼c; Curtis & Sons 12¾c; Calvert's B 13½c; Curtis & Sons 13c; granulated 13¾c; powdered 13¾c; crushed 13¾c; P C 10@11c; Demarara 11½c.

Coffees.—Fancy Rio coffee 24½c; prime 23½c; good 22@21½c; fair 20@20½c; roasted, loose, 24¼c; roasted, in packages, 25c.

Syrups.—Orleans—prime 80c; choice 85c; Union 70c; H & E extra 75c; do fancy 65c; Havers 55c; plantation 60c; extra maple 65c; common 2½@30c.

Rice.—Carolina 8½@9c; Rangoon 7¾@7¾c.

GRAIN.—Below we give the receipts of wheat, corn, barley, rye and oats, since our last report:

Wheat, sacks	510	Corn, sacks	464
Barley, sacks	810	Rye, sacks	325
Oats, sacks	2,025		

The receipts of wheat, corn, oats, barley and rye, at the Grain Elevator, computed by bushels for Saturday, December 14, were as follows:

Wheat, bushels	0	Corn, bushels	399
Rye, bushels	291	Barley, bushels	1,938
Oats, bushels	2,062		

We have no change to note in prices, merely remarking that wheat is still scarce. We quote as follows: choice red winter is held at $1 65@1 70; amber do $1 50@1 55; white $1 60@1 65. There is a steady demand for oats, with sales of car lots at 40@41c. Corn—shelled and ear scarce at 42@43c. Barley—spring 60@65c; fall 65@70c. There is little doing in rye and prices nominally 80@90c for bush. Barley—spring 60@65c; fall 65@70c.

HOMINY.—We are reported an active trade at $4 25@4 50 ₰ bbl.

HAY.—Sales made, from wagons, in Allegheny, at $25@30 according to quality. Baled reported sales at $20 at track at $20@21.

HONEY.—There is but little doing, sales in a small way at 25@26c ₰ lb.

LARD.—Cleveland white $2 00 ₰ bbl; eastern $1 75.

LARD OIL.—No 1 extra, 70@75c; No 1 $ 60c per gal.

LIME STAR.—Limon brands are in good demand at 72½ ₰ bbl.

LINSEED.—Silver skins are held at $2 00@2 25 ₰ bbl; yellow $2 75; reds $2 00@2 50.

POTATOES.—Prices low 75@80c ₰ bush; Jersey sweets $5 00@5 25 ₰ bbl.

POULTRY.—Sales of live chickens at 50@55c ₰ pair; ducks at 75@80c ₰ pair; dressed turkeys 16@16c.

RAGS.—Read at 3@3½c ₰ lb.

SUPPLIES.—Sales at 75c@$1 ₰ case of 6 doz.

SEEDS.—Timothy $1 85@1 90.

TALLOW.—Sales at 5@5½c ₰ lb.

VEGETABLES.—Potatoes $3@3 25 ₰ bbl; whole carcass 10c.

WHISKY.—Highwines 90@93c ₰ gall.

ALLEGHENY LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 16, 1872.

Cattle.

The receipts of cattle to-day by the various railroads centering at Bull Union Yards amounted to twenty-ix car loads or about 160 head. In addition to these there were ome few head brought in by drovers. Drover and Butcher stock is selling to-day at least 50 head of cattle on sale to-day. The market opened about seven o'clock to a rather unpleasant snow storm, but the attendance of buyers and sellers at the yards and in full sight o'clock, and then those who desired common cattle held back, while those who wanted the better grades were more anxious to purchase. There were on sale some fancy or Christmas stock. Mr. Jacob Neely had on he market three of the finest steers ever offered in Allegheny. For them he asked his per pound live weight, but did not succeed in selling. The cattle were enormous, amounting in the aggregate to something over 8,000 pounds. This for three cattle is rather hard to beat. While in his yard we found that the complaint was about the weight, and not the price, as most of the butchers are not prepared, and have not the facility for handling such heavy stock. Enoch Newton, of Columbiana county, Ohio, had on sale some very fine stock. He sold a bull for $6 25 per hundred pounds. This, we believe, is the highest price a bull has brought in the Alleghany market for years. Excepting the fancy stock, the quality of the cattle was as usual, common and fair for cattle the market was even all through, the demand ruling a little better than last week.

Common cattle is fully cheaper, greater than the demand.

Prices for these ruled full as bad as heretofore, and the market closed with some drovers and parts of drovers unsold. At 2 o'clock P. M. Drover and others being unable to sell at what they considered fair prices, sent their stock to East Liberty for wholesale. To-sum the whole matter up, trade ruled fair for prime stock and dull and lower for common and inferior.

Bulls.

The number of bulls on sale to-day was very small, particularly of the best grade. The market for prime ruled good from the cent assessment to the close, as high as 6¼ ₰ lb was paid by fair dealers. Butcher stock and lower, being from $2 50 to $3 00 per hundred.

Fresh Cows.

The run of fresh cows for sale fair, amounting to twenty-five head. The demand was full better than the supply. Prices are on the advance as follows: A prime cow or heifer, that can be recommended every way finds ready sale from $60 to $75; good from $50 to $55; fair from $40 to $45; common $30 to $35.

Stockers.

The number of stock cattle on sale to-day was smaller. There was a fair demand and some 4 loads were made at figures for higher than have ruled for some time.

Fancy Christmas cattle from $8 50 to $10; extra 1 to 2c steers, fine and smooth, $7 00 to $7 25; extra 1 to 2c steers, fine and smooth, $6 50 to $6 75; choice 1 to 2c steers, fine and smooth, $5 75 to $6 25; prime 1 to 2c steers, fine and smooth, $5 25 to $5 50; fair 1 to 2c steers, fine and smooth, $4 25 to 4 75; common $3 75 to $4 00; good fat cows, $3 50 to $3 75; common cows, $30 to $35; stockers, $2 50 to $4 25.

ARRIVALS.

J. Steel, fr m Washington county.....4 head.
James unter, from Washington county.....20 head.
S. Hastings, from Westmoreland county.....6 head.
—— owns, from Scott Liber Township.....2 l oad.
Or Wilson & Co., from Kittanning.....1 load.
T. Ketner, from Greene county.....40 head.

CATTLE.

	Cars
John Rose Bellair	
Young, Imus & Bell, Allegheny	
S. W. Cunningham, Bellair	
Hinkle & Sons, Bellair	
Thompson & Kerr, Bellair	
Mason & Bro, Allegheny	
Greenwalt & R. Kenton	
Greenwalt & Rahm, Upper sandusky	
Greenwalt & R. Crestline	
D. W. Gault, Galion	
A. Cunningham & Nesbit	
Gault & Pratt, No. Shelby	
Ault, Taylor, Mansfield	
H. H. Gray & Co, Union Stock Yards	
Glenn & Hall, Union Stock Yards	
John Bunger, Mansfield	
J. B. Dunn, Union Stock Yards	
C. Laidley, Canton	
Greenwalt & Rahm, Wooster	

HOGS.

P. H. Peel & Co., Harrisburg	3
Orr & Wilt me, from East Liberty	
Wm. Wilson & Bro	
J. Hendrickson, East Liberty	

SHEEP.

E. Newton, Iretonia	1
Keefer & Rogers retailed 1 car of Chicago cattle at prices from $6 00 to $6 50 per 100 lbs.	
Sadler, Hawkins & Hahn sold 20 head of Ohio and Pennsylvania cattle at prices ranging from $5 25 to $6 00 per 100 lbs.	
Sadler, Hawkins & Co. sold 1 car of Ohio cattle at prices ranging from $4 50 to $5 00 per 100 lbs.	
Sadler, Havens & Co. sold 125 head of Ohio cattle at prices ranging from $4 to $5 75 per 100 lbs.	
M. Kramse sold 41 head of Ohio cattle at figures ranging from $3 50 to $5 50 per 100 lbs.	
Lieberman & Zeigler sold 42 head of Washington county cattle at prices from $4 to $5 50 per 100 lbs.	
P. Hartman sold 20 head of Greene county cattle at figures from $2 50 to $5 00 per 100 lbs.	
J. Neely retailed 2 cars of Ohio cattle at prices ranging from $5 50 to $7 per 100 lbs.	
M. Horner sold 1 car of Ohio cattle at figures ranging from $3 50 to $4 25 per 100 lbs; also, 16 head of Chicago cattle from $5 to $6 75 per 100 lbs; also, 1 extra	
James Hanlon sold 21 head of Washington county cattle at prices from $2 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
Hazelwood & Black sold 36 head of Ohio cattle, at prices ranging from $4 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
E. Jackson sold 11 head of Washington county cattle, at figures ranging from $3 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
Holmes, Lafferty & Co. sold 19 head of Ohio cattle, at prices varying from $3 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
Carr & McAllister retailed one car of Indiana cattle, at figures ranging from $3 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
Kirk & Mitchell sold 24 head of mixed Washington and Greene county cattle, at prices from $3 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
Orr, Wilson & Co. sold 1 car of Ohio cattle at figures ranging from $3 to $5 per 100 lbs; also 1 car from East Liberty ranging from $3 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
J. Stansberry retailed 2 cars of Ohio cattle at prices ranging from $4 50 to $5 per 100 lbs.	
C. F. Laidley sold 5 Ohio steers at $4 25 ₰ 100 lbs.	
L. Rothschilds retailed 2 cars of Ohio cattle at figures ranging from $5 50 to $6 25 ₰ 100 lbs.	
P. Shindlemyer sold 40 head of Butler county cattle at prices varying from $3 50 to $5 ₰ 100 lbs.	

Sheep.

The number of sheep on sale to-day was small, amount-

OCEAN STEAMERS.

Date of Departure From New York.

1872.

Calabria	December 18	Liverpool.
Minnesota	December 18	Glasgow.
Tripoli	December 18	Liverpool.
Am'erdam	December 19	Hamburg.
Canada	December 21	Liverpool.
Kentucky	December 21	Liverpool.
Atlantic	December 21	Liverpool.
City of Paris	December 21	Liverpool.
Upsala	December 25	Liverpool.
Manhattan	December 25	Hamburg.
Helvetia	December 26	Liverpool.
Adriatic	December 28	Liverpool.
Australia	December 28	Liverpool.
City of Limerick	December 28	Liverpool.
St. Laurent	December 28	Bristol.
Average	December 28	

1873.

Cuba	January 1	Liverpool.
Wisconsin	January 1	Liverpool.
Iowa	January 4	Hamburg.
Thuringia	January 8	Liverpool.
Cortha	January 8	Liverpool.
Nevada	January 8	Liverpool.

RIVER TELEGRAMS.

DAILY REPORT

OF THE STAGE OF WATER, WITH CHANGES IN THE 24 HOURS, ENDING 3 P. M., DECEMBER 16, 1872.

	Above Low Water.		Changes. Rise.		Fall.	
	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.
L. Traverse	0	0	0	0	0	0
Port Benton	0	0	0	0	0	0
Omaha	0	0	0	0	0	2
Cairo	6	1	0	0	0	0
Leavenworth	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keokuk	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dubuque	2	4	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	4	0	0	0	0	2
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	0	0	2
Cincinnati	7	10	0	0	0	2
Louisville	4	6	0	0	0	0
Nashville	11	0	0	0	0	0
Vicksburg	0	0	0	0	0	0
Memphis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Orleans	15	0	0	0	0	0

"Falling.

W. E. SMITH,
Observer Sig. Ser. U. S. Army.

Brownsville, Pa.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROWNSVILLE, Pa., December 16, 1872.

River stationary, with five feet of water in the channel. Raining; thermometer 34 at 6 P. M.

C.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, December 16.—River seven feet ten inches and falling. Light snow. Mild day. Clear.

Louisville.

LOUISVILLE, December 16.—River receding, with four feet in the canal and two feet in the Portland chute. Clouds damp and chilly. Ice disappearing fast. Thermometer Robb and largely favorable. Bully Boaz, Mattie, engaged. Billy Collins, New Orleans; Ajax left Memphis; Kentucky, river 5—day for Pittsburgh; Molto Page left the same point for Cincinnati.

Evansville.

EVANSVILLE, IND., December 16.—Cold and freezing; part in clouds and clear. Mercury 35 to 40 degrees. Wind from the Northwest. Business has been dull for days, about stationary. Port List—Samuel J. Hall, New Orleans; Cincinnati, New Orleans; Mary Morton, Cincinnati; Sam. Lee, Louisville; Eddyville from Cairo; Quick, Cincinnati; Cairo, Memphis; Kentucky, Pittsburgh; Molto, Cairo; Mary Morton, Cincinnati and return. Left Alabama No. 2, Henderson and return. Business tolerably brisk.

Cairo

CAIRO, ILL., December 16.—Arrived, John Means, Ohio River; Fleet No. 2, Ohio River. Departed—Kansas Belle, Evansville. River stationary. Clear and cold.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, December 16.—Cloudy and damp, with indications of rain. River falling slowly. Departed—Jesse White river; Jamuary and Lewis, St. Louis.

Vicksburg.

VICKSBURG, Miss., December 16.—Down—H. S. Turner and Lewis, St. Louis. Up today, 0; daily and cool. River falling.

New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, December 16.—Arrived—P. W. Strader, Cincinnati. No departures. Rainy and warm.

For Latest River Dispatches See Outside

RIVER NEWS.

THE steamer Anna arrived since our last.

THE favorite steamer Exchange, Capt. Edward Evans, arrived at Monongahela wharf this morning at daylight and Louisville. Passengers and ship pers can rely on her going through.

THE snow that began to fall yesterday morning continued all day. The weather was mild in the evening. There are indications of rain. A good coal boat can now be very acceptable during the holidays.

SALE OF THE BAR.—December 2, John Carrier sold the Andy Baird to Capt. Upson for $50,000. She is now on a trip to Memphis, and on her return to Pittsburgh will be regarded at the Custom House of Cairo.

NEW ORLEANS.—The *Republican* says: All the upper rivers and tributaries are now over low water mark for the season, twenty-five years. The Red and Ouachita rivers have become things of utter disgust to all steamboatmen. Some are seriously contemplating ways and means of running their crafts by the overland route.

THE Memphis *Avalanche* of the Mississippi at that point "the river now lower than it has been this season, and the bar in close to the surface pretty now Crossing fr m the fact that the mattie Reib grounded last night between the coal fleet and the bar is thereby rendered doubly dangerous.

THE New Orleans *Picayune*, 14th instant: The Katie Roussel—From R. W. Duncan, of the wrecking steamer Resort, we are informed that the steamer Katie was raised, the steamer Katie released, as the insurance companies in the West had agreed to pay a large number of ten thousand dollars for raising the Katie, and abolish the claim of the Mississippi Valley Transportation Company of three thousand dollars for towing the Katie to this port.

THE St. Louis *Democrat* says: Capt. Caspar Schmelzle, of the city, was on Change and suffered from a general interview by the reporters. Capt. Schmelzle is one of the oldest boatmen of the West and is yet as hale and hearty as a man can desire. He began steamboating five years ago, and was connected wi h the Pearl—the first tow-boat on the St. Louis Harbor. The Pearl was after ted with the Clermont, Eagle and Wisconsin No. 2, and built the Friendship. He was commander of them, and never met with an accident of a serious nature.

ST. LOUIS.—The board of United States local inspectors have now three cases on hand which they are trying, viz.: the collision of the Lake Superior and Northerner; the collision of the Louisiana Missouri No. 2 with the barge Frank Leslie with a coal, was sunk. The collision between the steamer H. Fisher and Hesper case, in which the former was damaged $2,000 worth, and the cause of the burning of the H. M. Shreve. The inspectors have also handed a new bill of lading, with classifications printed on the back, which will be submitted to the consideration of the Steamboat Captains' Association to be held in this city on next week. The forms will be ready for use when shippers should secure a copy, so as to have their bill of lading books printed similarly.

THE Memphis *Avalanche* of the 13th says: Capt. Lee of the Hill line, informs us that he will run his boat in connection with the middle route at Montezuma Bar, above Delta. He found full nine feet of water on the bar, and will continue to pass by that course without detention. Heretofore the channel has been the troublesome detention. Heretofore the channel has been the trouble-some one, either one side or the other, and the Osmolo-chick while trying to run the old route.

COAL shipments increased yesterday to seventy-five cents per ton. There is a very slim prospect just now of the stock being reduced to the old figure of a yearly period.

THE City of Cairo has the following freight to-day: 1,000 tierces of lard for Pittsburgh, 14 bbls of sugar and 161 bbls molasses for Steubenville, 62 bbls molasses, for Zanesville, Ohio, 40 bbls sugar.

IMPORTS BY RAIL AND RIVER.

Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago R. R.

J. Gallery & co, 165g hides; Graff, B & co, 2 cars mdse; Hussey, H mes & N, 2 cars mdse; Parkhurst, Bird & Co, 40 bbls beef; H Boggs & co, 8 hds sugar; B Schmidt, 3 pkgs do; Wm Bingham, 1 pkg do; Wallace, Bird & Co, 2 bbls whisky; Schoonmaker, Bro & Co, 1 car mdse; Fleming, Spicer & co, 53 bales hay; H F Herron, 1 car bbl stock; Wm Bingham, 1 pkg do; H F Herron, 1 car bbl stock; Pittsburgh Locomotive Works, 1 car engine and tender; Schoonmaker, Bro & Co, 2 bbls whisky; Schoonmaker, Bro & Co, 1 car mdse; Fleming, Spicer & co, 1 car mdse; Hussey, H mes & N, 1 car mdse; Graff, B & co, 2 cars

THE VERY LATEST.

THE LOUISIANA WRANGLE.

Plain Statement of the Facts from Attorney General Williams, forming the Basis of the President's Action—Election of United States Senator Postponed.

WASHINGTON, December 16—Attorney General Williams to-day made the following statement relative to affairs in Louisiana. According to the laws of Louisiana Gov. Warmouth, Lieutenant Governor Pinchback, Secretary of the State Herron and Messrs. Lynch and Anderson constituted, at the late election in that State, a returning board, with power to canvass the votes for Presidential electors, members of Congress, State officers and members of the Legislature. Pinchback and Anderson were candidates upon the Republican ticket, and therefore resigned their seats upon the board, and to fill the vacancies so created Longstreet and Hawkins were elected by the remaining members, as provided by law. Warmouth then pretended to remove the Secretary of State from office, and appointed in his place a fellow by the name of Wharton. Warmouth and Wharton then repudiated the election of Longstreet and Hawkins, and appointed in their places Hatch and Depoit. This board, as constituted, were proceeding to canvass the votes, when, upon due application, their proceedings were perpetually enjoined by the Judge of the Eighth District State Court, whose jurisdiction in the case was undisputed. Warmouth thereupon forcibly ejected the judge granting said injunction from the court room, and installed in his place, before the votes were canvassed, or it was legally known who was elected, another man, the title of both of whom is in that district at that election. Proceedings were then had in the regular Supreme Court of the State, to test the validity of this change of Judges was brought in question and the Court decided that the Warmouth Board of Canvassers was illegal and its acts void. These decisions of the State Court were treated by Warmouth with perfect contempt, and he at once commenced on the equity side of the United States District Court, in which an injunction was asked and obtained against the Warmouth Board of Canvassers, and this injunction was also treated by the Warmouth Board with open defiance. Instructions were then given to the Marshal to enforce the orders of this Court, and troops were placed at his service for that purpose. Meanwhile the Board of Canvassers organized according to law, or a majority of them, canvassed the votes, and returned that the Republican candidates for Presidential electors and State officers were elected, and that certain persons were elected to the Legislature. Warmouth having called an extraordinary session of the Legislature, the persons returned as elected by the regular Board assembled in the State House, and after organization made a formal requisition under section 4, article 4, of the Constitution of the United States, upon the President to protect the State from domestic violence. The troops and interposition against Warmouth were also procured by this body, and under the instruction of the State the Lieutenant Governor became acting Governor. Another body assembled at Lyceum Hall, in New Orleans, claiming to be the Legislature of the State, and was recognized by Warmouth. Two organizations were thus made, promising nothing else than peace but disorder and anarchy. Not doubting that irregularities had occurred on both sides; but believing that the Republican ticket had received a majority of the votes of Louisiana, and acting in conformity to the decisions of the highest Board of Canvassers, and the decisions of the State and Federal courts, the President directed the dispersion of the armed forces of the State House Legislature by recognizing the organization with which it is connected as the lawful government of the State.

NEW ORLEANS, December 16.—B. L. Lynch, Republican, was installed as Judge of the Fourth District Court, B inner, fusionist, being forcibly ejected. Bonner had a peaceful possession of the court-room. Lynch holds a commission from acting Governor Pinchebeh upon the return of the Bowee board.

In the Federal court, in the Warmouth contempt case, several witnesses were examined and depositions taken. Under advisement the Legislature impeachment case was postponed until Wednesday. It is stated that the Governor won't answer the charges.

A ballot for United States Senator takes place tomorrow. Billings, Casey, Darrell, Pinchbeck, and ex-Governor Wells, of Jefferson Parish, Pinchbeck is regarded as the strongest, nearly three fourths of the Legislature being counted.

Judge Bonner says: Before I left Boston I was informed by Gen. Longstreet that I had been elected, and that Lynch and Anderson had the undoubted ruling and without any warrant of law four polls were thrown out, and in these four polls the returning board made out that I was not elected.

This evening the Senate adopted the following: Whereas, there is a conflict between the two factions and laws of the State of Louisiana and an act of Congress relative to the election of United States Senator; and whereas, a reasonable interpretation of the Congressional law justifies no delay on the part of the General Assembly in the election of United States Senator on the second day of the commencement of the next regular session, therefore, resolved, by the Senate, that it will not proceed to the election of United States Senator before the second Tuesday after the organization of the regular session of the Legislature, in January next.

THE DEAD TRAGEDIAN.

His Funeral Obsequies Yesterday at Philadelphia—Synopsis of His Will, Providing for the Establishment of "Edwin Forrest Home" for Actors and Actresses—Bequests to Personal Friends.

PHILADELPHIA, December 16.—The obsequies of the late Edwin Forrest took place from his residence at 3 P. M. The body was laid out in the parlor of his late home and was dressed in a full suit of black. There was a laurel wreath at his head and a cross of immortelles on his breast; also a number of other floral offerings placed around the room. A large number of visitors viewed the remains. A committee of the New York Lotus club, consisting of Mayor Hall, Col. Thomas Knox Wm. Appleton and Frederick Schwab, were present. A large number of actors attended informally. The pall bearers were John W. Forney, James Oakes, James Lawson, Daniel Dougherty, Dr. J. R. Burgen and Dr. Samuel Grase. The coffin was black and silver mounted, with the name, time of birth and death of the deceased. The interment was in the family vault in St. Paul's church, Third street.

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The codicils of the will give an annuity of $2,500 to James Oakes, and bequeaths $5,000 each to James Lawson and Daniel Dougherty; $10,000 to Miss Rosalie Welsh, daughter of John R. Welsh; $2,000 to S. S. Smith, of Cincinnati, and $2,000 to the Actors' Order of Friendship, of Philadelphia.

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RAILWAY MATTERS.

Grand Opening of the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad.

CAIRO, ILL., December 16.—The first passenger train over the Cairo and Vincennes Railroad arrived from Vincennes at six P. M., bringing about three hundred excursionists to the celebration of the completion of the road. The train was delayed about two hours by the running of a special train from Cairo bearing the Reception Committee; with this exception there was no hitch in the programme of the trip. The train was enthusiastically cheered at the entrance into the city by crowds on the streets, and saluted by the whistles of the steamers at the wharf. On arrival at the St. Charles hotel, the guests were met by Mayor Manson, who tendered to them the hospitalities of the city. Hon. John H. Leeds delivered the address of welcome, and was responded to by Gen. Burnside, after which brief speeches were made by other prominent parties. The excursionists wound up with a grand banquet at the St. Charles at 10 P. M. The excursionists return to Cairo in the morning.

Aid Voted to the Ohio Valley Railroad.

CINCINNATI, December 17.—Special to the *Gazette* says: The city of Gallipolis to-day voted to issue sixty thousand dollar bonds for the building of the Ohio Valley Railroad. The vote was eight over the necessary two-thirds.

Curious Theory of Storms.

A curious and interesting paper has been read lately by Mr St. Claire-Deville, before the French Academy of science, on "the quadruple symmetries and their application to the study of electric and atmospheric phenomena." He brought forward evidence to show that storms, auroras, etc., almost always occur after periodic intervals of ninety, thirty and ten days; also that there is a periodicity attached to the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month, as shown by the official meteorological reports. M. Deville also brought forward the official statement that, during the last two years, two or more of the days of from the eleventh to the fifteenth of every month have been characterized by winds, rains, squalls, thunder storms and auroras. Further, a large number of cases, as M. Deville states, can be detected at the dates of the fourth, thirteenth and twenty-fourth of each month, and the distinguished philosopher cites numerous examples in point.

ADDITIONAL LIVER DISPATCHES.

Little Rock.

LITTLE ROCK, December 16.—Legislature commenced balloting last evening and has not closed as yet. Clear to night and warmer. Mercury 45 deg. above 0.

Nashville.

NASHVILLE, December 16.—River falls 6 ft with twenty inches on Harpeth Shoals. Weather 60 and cloudy.

St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, December 14—River stationary, and has been for two days. Weather—Cloudy and warm. Wind Southwest. Mercury 60 deg. above Zero.

Memphis.

MEMPHIS, December 16—River falling 6 inches. Weather clear and cold.

COTTON MARKETS.

Savannah.

SAVANNAH, December 16.—Cotton quiet and firm; middling 20½c; receipts 2,000 bales; exports—Great Britain 1,103 bales; coastwise 4,651 bales; sales 2,292 bales; stock 77,731 bales.

Mobile.

MOBILE, December 16.—Cotton firm and feeling upward; good ordinary 19½c; low middlings 19½c; middling 20½c; receipts 2,000 bales; exports—coastwise 2,000 bales; sales 1,000 bales; stock 32,000 bales.

Galveston.

GALVESTON, December 16.—Cotton firm; good ordinary 19½c; net receipts 1,304 bales; exports—continent 1,000 bales; sales 1,000 bales; stock 29,053 bales.

Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., December 16.—Cotton firm; middling 20½c.

Charleston.

CHARLESTON, December 16.—Cotton stronger; low middling 19½c; receipts 1,000 bales; exports—coastwise 1,707 bales; sales 1,000 bales; stock 42,000 bales.

Chicago Live Stock Market.

CHICAGO, December 16.—Cattle—Receipts 1,407 head; market very dull; nothing doing to shipping steers; butchers' cows and grades dull and 10@15c lower; shipments on Saturday 758 head. Hogs—Receipts about 20,000 head; official receipts not in; market active and 10@15c higher; buyers buying freely at $3 05@3 80; shippers paying $3 90@4 00; closing firm; shipments on Saturday 1,200 head.

THE NEW YORK "TRIBUNE."

Change in Proprietorship and Management—William Orton Purchases the Controlling Interest—Whitelaw Ried, John Hay and Others of the Staff Retire.

NEW YORK, December 16—Fifty-one shares of the capital stock of the *Tribune* Association, constituting a majority, were to-day sold to William Orton. The parties going out, besides Mr. Sinclair and the reporties going out, besides Mr. Sinclair and the representatives of the estate of the dead proprietor, are George Ripley, Whitelaw Ried, John Hay, Thomas N. Hooker, Philip Fitzpatrick, O'Rourke and Dr. J. C. Ayer. Each of the old proprietors has earnestly requested to retain at least part of his stock. Messrs Ried and Hay refused, one selling $4,000 and the other $5,000. Messrs. Ripley, Hooker, Fitzpatrick and O'Rourke consented to retain barely one share each. Doctor Ayer sold eight of his fourteen shares. Of the fifty-one shares purchased it is understood eight are reserved for Schuyler Colfax, who is to be invited to assume the editorship. Mr. Reid was requested to remain, but declined, and announced that immediately on making the sale he had tendered his resignation as acting editor-in-chief to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Hay also declined to remain editorially connected, and other resignations from the staff have since been tendered. Mr. Orton then requested Mr. Reid, as a personal favor, to remain in charge of the paper for a little time, contending that its policy unchanged, and he consented to remain till the end of the present week. He stated for forty-eight hours uncertain to which side the sale would probably be made. The majority of the trustees, who desired to continue the paper on the basis of Mr. Greeley's card, with Mr. Reid at its head, needed only eighteen shares of stock to secure a clear majority. Mr. Reid offered forty thousand dollars, one-half in cash, and a considerably larger price, but Mr. Sinclair had secured enough of them to prevent him from making up the number. Messrs. Reid and Hay also offered Mr. Sinclair $200,000 for his own shares, and the two shares of the late Clark estate, which he controlled, and all the other trustees insisted that Mr. Reid should be found under by the laws of the association to sell to them before meeting at the same price to an outside party. Sinclair, however, insisted he had received a bona fide offer which he could not discharge, save by completing the transaction for fifty-one shares with Mr. Orton. It is reported that ex-Governor E. D. Morgan, ex-Senator A. B. Cornell, and others of that wing of the Republican party will stand with Orton. Instructions were issued given to the Marshal to enforce the orders of this Court, and troops were placed at his service for that purpose. Meanwhile the Board of Canvassers organized according to law, or a majority of them, canvassed the votes, and returned that the Republican candidates for Presidential electors and State officers were elected, and that certain persons were elected to the Legislature. Warmouth having called an extraordinary session of the Legislature, the persons returned as elected by the regular Board assembled in the State House, and after organization made a formal requisition under section 4, article 4, of the Constitution of the United States, upon the President to protect the State from domestic violence. The troops and interposition against Warmouth were also procured by this body, and under the instruction of the State the Lieutenant Governor became acting Governor. Another body assembled at Lyceum Hall, in New Orleans, claiming to be the Legislature of the State, and was recognized by Warmouth. Two organizations were thus made, promising nothing else than peace but disorder and anarchy. Not doubting that irregularities had occurred on both sides; but believing that the Republican ticket had received a majority of the votes of Louisiana, and acting in conformity to the decisions of the highest Board of Canvassers, and the decisions of the State and Federal courts, the President directed the dispersion of the armed forces of the State House Legislature by recognizing the organization with which it is connected as the lawful government of the State.

NEW ORLEANS, December 16.—B. L. Lynch, Republican, was installed as Judge of the Fourth District Court, B inner, fusionist, being forcibly ejected. Bonner had a peaceful possession of the court-room. Lynch holds a commission from acting Governor Pinchebeh upon the return of the Bowee board.

In the Federal court, in the Warmouth contempt case, several witnesses were examined and depositions taken. Under advisement the Legislature impeachment case was postponed until Wednesday. It is stated that the Governor won't answer the charges.

A ballot for United States Senator takes place tomorrow. Billings, Casey, Darrell, Pinchbeck, and ex-Governor Wells, of Jefferson Parish. Pinchbeck is regarded as the strongest, nearly three fourths of the Legislature being counted.

Judge Bonner says: Before I left Boston I was informed by Gen. Longstreet that I had been elected, and that Lynch and Anderson had the undoubted ruling and without any warrant of law four polls were thrown out, and in these four polls the returning board made out that I was not elected.

This evening the Senate adopted the following: Whereas, there is a conflict between the two factions and laws of the State of Louisiana and an act of Congress relative to the election of United States Senator; and whereas, a reasonable interpretation of the Congressional law justifies no delay on the part of the General Assembly in the election of United States Senator on the second day of the commencement of the next regular session, therefore, resolved, by the Senate, that it will not proceed to the election of United States Senator before the second Tuesday after the organization of the regular session of the Legislature, in January next.

THE DEAD TRAGEDIAN.

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STATE NEWS.

A floating hotel is being built at the mouth of Red river, on the Atchafalaya river, for the accommodation of fishermen and others of the "floating population."

Emporium has a population of 1,800, and sixteen places where liquor can be sold by the dram. It is not safe for ladies to venture out, even in the day time, without protection, and the citizens talk strongly of the local option law as the best remedy for their ills.

Two of the newspapers in Conemaugh, the *Item* and the *Journal*, are to be consolidated this week. Hon. J. S. Mann to be editor and S. F. Hamilton publisher.

John B. Rogers left his home in Freedom township, Adams county, on the 6th of November, and his family have since then had no news of him. He is in the forty-third year of his age, is six feet high, has stooped shoulders, dark complexion, dark hair and heavy beard. He had on brown pants and coat, black soft hat, and had with him a red plaid shawl and contenses freely. He is unsound in mind, although not violent, and requires watching. Any person knowing of his whereabouts, are requested to take care of him, treat him kindly, and promptly inform the undersigned, their expenses will be promptly come to his family. All expenses will be paid by Thomas Rogers, Greenmount Postoffice, Adams county, Pa.

The farmers of Clarion county complain that their winter apples are rotting very fast.

Rev. A. Elliott has been installed as pastor of the Presbyterian church on Greenville, Clarion county.

The East Brady *Independent* says: "Midnight attacks on travelers are becoming more and more frequent in this neighborhood, and it does seem as if something ought to be done to prevent such occurrences as have been possible. It is well known that a band of desperate characters, with their ill-gotten booty, infest our neighborhood, who do not hesitate to murder for the sake of plunder, and procure plunder. Money they must have, and they don't get it honestly, so it is at the cost of citizens who go unarmed at night."

Mastering Languages.

No one in his senses believes that we are all endowed with equal capacities. That would make monotony and a stupid state of things were we all precisely alike. One has a genius for painting; another for construction, another for music, and so on. Such a diversity of mental gifts keeps the world lively. Even a child perceives a variety of purposes, and runs through all the ramifications of nature. A very few excel in the acquisition of languages, which, by the way, is a very extraordinary faculty. Neither grammarians, physiologists nor phrenologists have sufficiently analyzed it for satisfactory comprehension. 'Tis sheer nonsense to argue that one person can acquire as much as another in certain departments of science and knowledge. They cannot, even with unremitting assistance of an army of instructors.

Einstein and that wizard in languages, Sir John St. Peterburgh, July 5, 1808, was prodigy in languages, with extremely limited advantage. Having heard of Cardinal Mezzofanti, who knew fifty-eight languages, she resolved to be equally familiar with everyone's tongue. Before she was sixteen she learned Greek, Spanish, Portugese and Italian, and added German and Russian beautifully long before. She had mastered eleven languages, in which she spoke fluently, and most of them accurately. Next evening was accomplished. From her eleventh year she seldom slept more than six hours. Her mind was too active for a frail body. She became locally celebrated as a prodigy, but died November 29, 1826, being seventeen years and three months old, before her great linguistic powers were half developed.

Ghastly Ingenuity of Thieves in India.

[From the Pall Mall Gazette.]

Why is death commonly bandingered by apparitions in female shape, according to the superstitions of the East and the North, as well as of classical antiquity? The Greeks held that human life was controlled by the Fates. The Northern nations had their Valkyriur, or female choosers of the slain. The combination of the two ideas appears to be that Constantinople saw "the plague, hovering with her hook over their dreary abode, and with her hooked talons plundering one by one her intended victims. And now we are told the thieves of Indian cities have found out a new way of using the weird fancy. Some "old offenders," in female disguise, go about the streets of Madras exactly at twelve at night, and knock at the doors of houses inhabited by natives. "There is a strange belief among the uneducated natives that the evil thing prints the name on the prevailing epidemic, rips at their door at that hour of the night, and that if any female opens he will be struck dead by her." The unsuspecting natives—forgetting the hour—open, see ominous figures, and "many of them drop down in a fainting fit." The visitors make the best of the occasion.

THE BROKERS' TAX.

Bankers Doing Business as Brokers Liable for the Special Tax.

[From the New York Times.]

Judge Woodruff, in the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, rendered a decision in the suit brought by Hiram M. Northrop and Joseph M. Olick against Sheriff Shook, late Collector of Internal Revenue in the thirty-second District of New York. The action was brought as a test case, to recover $40,930 19, which was assessed as taxes upon the banking and brokering business of the plaintiffs, by Collector Shook, and paid by them from September, 1864, on the sums assessed for July, and part August 31, 1866. The assessment was based upon the plaintiffs' sales of gold, stock, bonds, bullion, bills of exchange, and promissory notes between the above dates. It is not claimed that the amounts of the sales upon which the assessments were made, or the rate of the tax, were erroneous, if the plaintiffs were liable to assessment and tax upon the respective kinds or classes of business done by them as bankers and brokers. The decision settles seventy six others that were begun by other bankers at the same time, and over fifty others which were awaiting the decision in this case.

The assessment was made because, as was claimed by the government, the plaintiffs were bankers, doing business as brokers within the act of June 13, 1864, and were therefore liable to tax on all their sales of gold, stocks, &c., whether their own property or the property of others. The plaintiffs assert that they are bankers only in doing business under a banker's license, and not liable to taxation on one-twentieth of one per cent. upon any of their sales, as brokers were, and that even when they sold stocks belonging to others, they were acting merely as bankers only. The sales by the former, decision states, appear to have been sales of property belonging to the plaintiffs, being sales of gold, stocks, bonds, &c., transmitted to them by correspondents, and the same, or the proceeds, drawn against in many cases long before orders were immediately and the proceeds applied to the payment of drafts, and in others the drafts were accepted or paid, and the stocks were held for a better market, or to await orders, standing in the meantime at their entire risk. In other cases, however, there were no advances, but the property held for them, and when sold by order of the customer, the proceeds were paid to him. The sales by the latter. There were also sales of stocks made in pursuance of an arrangement for what is called "carrying" stocks on a margin. These transactions were conducted in the name of the plaintiffs, the customer's name not appearing.

The decision then refers to and reviews at length the arguments of both sides, and, after quoting the various sections of the law authorizing the brokers' tax, Judge Woodruff says: Under these provisions it is, I think, clear, first, that bankers confining themselves to the business of banking only, as described in subdivision 1, of section 59, are not included in the business of a broker, described in subdivision 9, and are only liable to pay the license fee and percentages for commissions. I also doubt that it was the intention of Congress to reach and include what is commonly known as merely much the larger part of all the sales of stock, gold, and some other property made in this country, and it is expressly proved that it constitutes much the largest part of the plaintiffs' business, viz: speculations in the very nature of the case, cannot be considered, and I think a just interpretation of the statute does include them. It follows from these views that the plaintiffs are liable to pay the taxes, and are, therefore, taxable for those sales. Judgment must be entered for the defendant, with costs.

THE EYE.

Some of the Common Dangers to Which It is Subject.

The sculper Crawford was accustomed all his life to rend lying down. To this very largely physicians attribute the loss of his eye. Very soon a cancer formed in the other which caused his death.

The great Italian Scholar Mezzofanti, whose eyesight gave rise to a waste of time on each occasion that a tool has to be changed. It is under these circumstances that the steel has arisen, and many attempts have been made to remedy this defect in the process, but without success.

There have been almost thirty patents for steel pens secured from the United States Office at Washington, all of them professing to be the ultimatum in the direction of the steel pen. Some of them have realized the demand expressed in the quotations referred to, except that of Mr. Thomas Clark, late Professor of Chemistry in the city of St. Louis, who, experimenting and continually making tool steel of a peculiar quality of temper, at last succeeded, on the March 25, and a patent for his process was issued on June 25. His process is a most simple one, requiring no chemicals, and the pen, after it is made, can be malleableized is taken and cast into moulds, and then stamped. The pens are then packed in cans with annealing sand, and placed in annealing ovens. They are left there about two-thirds of the time necessary to make them thoroughly malleable. They are then taken out, and while red hot are put through a hardening process, and then they are hammered and straightened. One eighth of an inch is then cut from the entire edge of the tools with a punch, leaving the nibs close up to the fine cut generally "ground" on the stones. After which they are sent to the inspecting room and carefully gone over with a fine steel tools in water, off or other tempering liquids, water being chiefly used by Mr. Clark. A hatchet can be found in nearly every household, the temper of which by other processes takes several hours after sewing the annealing room.

Ventilation.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Among the causes of ill health among the American people none is more potent than breathing foul air; and this custom is not confined to the inmates of cellars, garrets, tenement houses and slums of great cities, but is almost universal; and in few places is the supply more abundant than in our churches, public halls and railway coaches. It is in vain that builders supply means of ventilation. The occupants of these places close up the flow of pure ventilators, and shudder at thought of that old savage oxygen breaking in upon the sacred inclosures devoted to carbonic acid gas.

On Tuesday, the 12th, I took the morning mail train at Newcastle to come to Indiana. It was a bright, crisp winter morning. There were but few passengers in the car, and the windows and doors, openings in the doors, between that and the starting point, had kept the air in the car fresh enough. Every ventilator was closed. But soon the seats began to fill up with way passengers, and the air became loaded with exhalations from human lungs, and human and animal skin, till more or less in need of purification, and when the conductor came along I asked him to open one of the ventilators. Below Butler I felt a headache coming on, and fortified by some old Bourbon made during the campaign of '44, he made good his promise, and made indeed a happy exchange from the top of the gate-post. His hair was as black, his eye as bright and his step as elastic as that of this writer. And he made the speech that led to it in 1844. He was a captain in the war of 1812, before I was born, and his spirit and appearance as to be regarded with a sort of superstition by the people of Kentucky. As time writes me that he was born in 1790, I am inclined to suspect that he came over with Ponce de Leon, and was the only one of the party that found the fountain of youth.

A Remarkable Murder Trial in Tennessee.

In Marshall county, Tennessee, there will soon be a trial for murder which promises some singular features. Three years ago a young man in Marshall county was engaged to be married to a young lady whose name was Hunbert, and who was a Union. The lover ran off with his intended twice, but was as closely watched and hotly pursued by the lady's friends that it was impossible for them to get away to take place. He made a third attempt, when he met the girl at an appointed place, and took her on a horse behind him. They had not gone far when a constable came up and ordered them to desist, as he had a warrant for the girl's arrest. The girl refused to stop, and the officer fired his pistol, killing the girl instantly. The young man increased the speed of his horse, and several shots were sent after him. He rode on a little way and then stopped, dragging the girl with him. The assassins came up and commanded the wounded man unmercifully, he begging them to desist, as he should be had recovered words soon finish him. The murderers proceeded to the girl's home, and attempted to force her to ove on her lover's horse and go home with them. This she refused to do, even for the persuasion of a severe beating which they gave her. They then left the two helpless on the road, went home and told their mother they had killed that fellow, and left the parts to avoid arrest. The girl and her friends got to the house of her best friends where they were married, and in a few hours the husband breathed his last. The assassins were arrested, and before the day of their trial they managed to break jail and escaped to Texas. Recently they were captured in Arkansas, and back to Marshall county. They will be tried in a short time. The wife of the murderer is determined to do all in her power to secure their conviction. She lives with her husband's father, and has not gone near her own family since the tragedy.

Where the Salt in Sea Water Comes From.

The sea depends on the disintegration of rocks on land for its saltness. It does not originate in oceans and seas. Rains wash it and hold it in solution as particles are liberated by violence, decomposition and gradual action of many natural forces. All streamlets and rivers, therefore, are constantly transporting salt to the sea, and the time when it can be held in solution, then it accumulates in masses at very deep points, which, in the revolution to which matter is subject, in more than be a stratum of salt some where remote from where the mass was formed. Thus the salt mines of Hallein and Hornburg, are composed of pure salt in Texas, as well as that mountain of rock salt in St. Domingo, were collected from evaporation of ancient seas which are now dry land remote from water. There are places in Africa where the process of evaporation of salt from rocks is regularly going on, but there is not water power enough to bring it eastward to the sea. Vast quantities are spread abroad and mixed up with soil. The negroes of Kaidui, in Northern Africa, having discovered this, scrape the surface of the soil, and put it to dissolve in the ground, reach it. In that way they separate the salt. By evaporating the water holding it in solution, an excellent article for domestic purposes is produced. Salt pervades the earth. It exists in the lime and most vegetable products on which animals feed. In that way they derive enough in their constitutions to meet the wants of their nature. They require as much as civilized humanity. With them salt is a necessity, as with ourselves, for keeping the organs of vision in good condition. Stop the supply and blindness would be universal.

A Spark and Dust Arrester for Locomotive Engines.

It is claimed that the desideratum so long sought for, namely, a practical device to check and dust arrester locomotives, has at last been realized. The invention is merely a curved smoke-stack, attached as ordinary smoke-stacks are, the mouth running back and sowards the center of the locomotive. Within, near the enlargement at the upper curve, is placed a fire screen at an angle of forty-five degrees, the pieces with the direction of the smoke, and the usual screen is placed over the immediate outlet.

Just below the screen is a perforated steam-stack is ran horizontally through the smoke-stack connected with the boiler by a valve under the control of the engine driver. As the refuse matter from the furnace passes through the stack, it is intercepted by the screen and thrown from the perforations, thus deadening the particles and increasing their weight.

Striking at the inclined angle named above against the first screen, the particles are precipitated upon the second screen, fall to the ground, whence, through the natural motion of the engine, they are directed by the force of the steam from the top of the gate-post. His hair was as black, his eye as bright and his step as elastic as that of this writer. And he made the speech that led to it in 1844. He was a captain in the war of 1812, before I was born, and his spirit and appearance as to be regarded with a sort of superstition by the people of Kentucky. As time writes me that he was born in 1790, I am inclined to suspect that he came over with Ponce de Leon, and was the only one of the party that found the fountain of youth.

A Fatal Residence.

[Correspondence of the New York Tribune.]

I was walking up the corner with Frederick Belknap the other night, when he passed the mansion where Seward resided so long, and where Payne stabbed him.

"General," said I, "do you remember a reception you gave one night when those four rooms in the second story were all crowded? I call it to your mind because, possibly, you did not know that a whisper ran suddenly around the room that the old house was haunted, and might fall down with the weight of the guests, and that a good many got out."

"Yes," said Belknap, "I did hear about it, and it was a shaky old place. We were particular after that about inviting people to our receptions."

Mr. Belknap then said that a distinguished public man had cautioned him about going into that house to live.

Said this man: "Belknap, no man ever lived in that house and died in it who did not die by assassination, or something. Seward's occupation of the place was a series of misfortunes and casualties. Mrs. Seward fell and broke her hip. Frederick and all other evils that flesh is heir to, through their ignorance of the laws of life, they should safely be permitted to compel others to shuffle off their coils and his penalty. That portion of the traveling public who would rather wear second-hand clothing than breathe second-hand breath, should insist on protection from the pestilent vapors which travel in the close air of railway cars.

JANE G. SWISSHELM.

ZOZONIA, INDIANA COUNTY, PA.

Where the Salt in Sea Water Comes From.

The sea depends on the disintegration of rocks on land for its saltness. It does not originate in oceans and seas. Rains wash it and hold it in solution as particles are liberated by violence, decomposition and gradual action of many natural forces. All streamlets and rivers, therefore, are constantly transporting salt to the sea, and the time when it can be held in solution, then it accumulates in masses at very deep points, which, in the revolution to which matter is subject, in more than be a stratum of salt some where remote from where the mass was formed. Thus the salt mines of Hallein and Hornburg, are composed of pure salt in Texas, as well as that mountain of rock salt in St. Domingo, were collected from evaporation of ancient seas which are now dry land remote from water. There are places in Africa where the process of evaporation of salt from rocks is regularly going on, but there is not water power enough to bring it eastward to the sea. Vast quantities are spread abroad and mixed up with soil. The negroes of Kaidui, in Northern Africa, having discovered this, scrape the surface of the soil, and put it to dissolve in the ground, reach it. In that way they separate the salt. By evaporating the water holding it in solution, an excellent article for domestic purposes is produced. Salt pervades the earth. It exists in the lime and most vegetable products on which animals feed. In that way they derive enough in their constitutions to meet the wants of their nature. They require as much as civilized humanity. With them salt is a necessity, as with ourselves, for keeping the organs of vision in good condition. Stop the supply and blindness would be universal.

THE BROKERS' TAX.

Bankers Doing Business as Brokers Liable for the Special Tax.

[From the New York Times.]

Judge Woodruff, in the United States Circuit Court, yesterday, rendered a decision in the suit brought by Hiram M. Northrop and Joseph M. Olick against Sheriff Shook, late Collector of Internal Revenue in the thirty-second District of New York. The action was brought as a test case, to recover $40,930 19, which was assessed as taxes upon the banking and brokering business of the plaintiffs, by Collector Shook, and paid by them from September, 1864, on the sums assessed for July, and part August 31, 1866. The assessment was based upon the plaintiffs' sales of gold, stock, bonds, bullion, bills of exchange, and promissory notes between the above dates. It is not claimed that the amounts of the sales upon which the assessments were made, or the rate of the tax, were erroneous, if the plaintiffs were liable to assessment and tax upon the respective kinds or classes of business done by them as bankers and brokers. The decision settles seventy six others that were begun by other bankers at the same time, and over fifty others which were awaiting the decision in this case.

The assessment was made because, as was claimed by the government, the plaintiffs were bankers, doing business as brokers within the act of June 13, 1864, and were therefore liable to tax on all their sales of gold, stocks, &c., whether their own property or the property of others. The plaintiffs assert that they are bankers only in doing business under a banker's license, and not liable to taxation on one-twentieth of one per cent. upon any of their sales, as brokers were, and that even when they sold stocks belonging to others, they were acting merely as bankers only. The sales by the former, decision states, appear to have been sales of property belonging to the plaintiffs, being sales of gold, stocks, bonds, &c., transmitted to them by correspondents, and the same, or the proceeds, drawn against in many cases long before orders were immediately and the proceeds applied to the payment of drafts, and in others the drafts were accepted or paid, and the stocks were held for a better market, or to await orders, standing in the meantime at their entire risk. In other cases, however, there were no advances, but the property held for them, and when sold by order of the customer, the proceeds were paid to him. The sales by the latter. There were also sales of stocks made in pursuance of an arrangement for what is called "carrying" stocks on a margin. These transactions were conducted in the name of the plaintiffs, the customer's name not appearing.

The decision then refers to and reviews at length the arguments of both sides, and, after quoting the various sections of the law authorizing the brokers' tax, Judge Woodruff says: Under these provisions it is, I think, clear, first, that bankers confining themselves to the business of banking only, as described in subdivision 1, of section 59, are not included in the business of a broker, described in subdivision 9, and are only liable to pay the license fee and percentages for commissions. I also doubt that it was the intention of Congress to reach